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ABSTRACT

The 2-part document, published by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, relates to the Smaller Communities Program conducted during 1969 to help alleviate employment problems in rural areas of Mississippi and to provide employment services in areas with varying economic problems. Based on data secured from Federal, state, and private sources, Part I of the report presents a general description of Stone County, Mississippi, along with trends concerning labor force, economic pattern, resources, and community facilities. Part II of the report surveys the county's current and potential manpower resources in terms of such factors as population, labor force, occupations, educational levels, and vocational training. Data were based on census reports or were secured from county residents through survey and through an application-taking and aptitude-testing process. (AN)

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SMALLER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
STONE COUNTY
MISSISSIPPI

PART I
ECONOMIC BASE REPORT

PART II
MANPOWER RESOURCE REPORT

An Evaluation of the Economic Resources of
A Rural Mississippi County

Prepared by
MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION
John E. Aldridge, Executive Director
November, 1969

RC005073

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Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College
Mississippi Library Commission
Mississippi Motor Vehicle Comptroller
Mississippi Public Service Commission
Mississippi Research and Development Center
Mississippi State Agricultural and Industrial Board
Mississippi State Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Mississippi State Department of Education
Mississippi State Department of Public Welfare
Mississippi State Game and Fish Commission
Mississippi State Health Department
Mississippi State Highway Department
Mississippi State Rating Bureau
Mississippi State Tax Commission
Mississippi State University
Mississippi Power Company
Pat Harrison Waterway District
Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association
Pine Forest Regional Library

Radio Station WIGG, Wiggins
Small Business Administration
Social Security Administration
Southeast Mississippi Industrial Development District
South Central Bell Telephone Company
Stone County Agricultural Workers Coordinating Council
Stone County Board of Supervisors
Stone County Chancery Clerk
Stone County Circuit Clerk
Stone County Cooperative Extension Service Agents
Stone County Farm Bureau
Stone County Health Department
Stone County Homemakers Clubs
Stone County Industrial Development Association
Stone County Sheriff's Office
Stone County Superintendnet of Education
Stone County Tax Assessor
Stone County Welfare Department
Stone Savings and Loan Association
The Mayor and Board of Alderman, Wiggins
The Stone County Enterprise (Weekly Newspaper - Wiggins)
U. S. Department of Agriculture, ASCS County Committee
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service
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U. S. Department of Commerce, ESSA, Weather Bureau, Jackson
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CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION

I. General Description of Area ---------- 1
  Area Definition and Location ---------- 1
  History of Area ---------- 5
  Topography ---------- 6
  Climate ---------- 10
  Population ---------- 19

II. Stone County's Labor Force ---------- 26
  Trends in Employment and Unemployment ---------- 26
  Current Labor Force ---------- 28
  Potential Labor Supply ---------- 35

III. Stone County's Economic Pattern ---------- 38
  Income ---------- 38
  Volume of Sales ---------- 39
  Financial Institutions ---------- 41
    Banks ---------- 41
    Savings and Loan Associations ---------- 42
    Farmers Home Administration ---------- 43
    The Federal Land Bank ---------- 48
    Production Credit Association ---------- 48
    Small Business Administration ---------- 49
  Utility Usage ---------- 50
  Home Ownership ---------- 51
  Families With Automobiles ---------- 52
  Postal Receipts ---------- 52
  Living Costs ---------- 52
  Agricultural Situation ---------- 55
  Present Industrial Situation ---------- 61

IV. Stone County's Resources ---------- 65
  Manpower Resources ---------- 65
    Wage Rates ---------- 65
  Water Resources ---------- 67
    Ground Water ---------- 67
    Surface Water ---------- 71
  Utility Resources ---------- 73
    Electricity ---------- 73
    Natural Gas ---------- 77
    Other Fuel ---------- 78
    Communications ---------- 78

Mineral Resources -- 80
Forestry Resources -- 83

V. Stone County's Community Facilities -------------------------------- 87
Form of Government and Tax Structure --------------------------- 87
State and Local Laws Affecting Business and Special
Business Taxes --- 89
Services Available by Federal, State and Local Institutions --------- 93
Police Protection -- 94
Fire Protection --- 95
Schools --- 97
Churches --- 100
Hospital and Medical Facilities ---------------------------------- 101
Sewerage Facilities -- 104
Public Welfare Facilities --- 105
Library Facilities -- 107
Recreational Facilities --- 108
Civic, Social, Service and Fraternal Organizations --------------- 111
Transportation Facilities --- 112
Highway Transportation ------------------------------------- 112
Railroad Transportation ------------------------------------ 115
Air Transportation -- 115
Water Transportation --------------------------------------- 116
Miscellaneous Services and Facilities --------------------------- 116

VI. Potential Industrial and Business Sites ------------------------------ 118

LIST OF MAPS AND TABLES

Page

Maps

1. Location of Stone County in Mississippi ---------------------------- 3
2. Location of Stone County in Relation of Major Markets in the South --- 4
3. Highway and Road Network, Stone County ------------------------- 114

Tables

1. Climatological Data, Wiggins, Stone County ---------------------- 14
2. Rainfall Frequency, Stone County ------------------------------- 15
3. Population of Stone County, 1920-1960, By Race and Cumulative Per Cent Change -- 20
4. Population of Political Subdivisions, Stone County, 1930-1960 -------- 21
5. Farm Operators, Characteristics As to Race, Tenancy, and Age, Stone County, 1945-1964 ------------------------------------- 22
6. Rural-Farm and Rural-Nonfarm Population Changes, By Race, Stone County, 1930-1960 ------------------------------------- 23
7. Median Years of School Completed, Persons 25 Years Old or Over, Stone County, 1940-1960 ----------------------------- 24
8. Age and Sex Distribution of the White and Non-White Populations, Stone County, 1930 and 1960 -------------------------------- 25
9. Population, Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, Stone County, 1940-1960 ------------------------------------- 26
10. Estimates of Labor Force and Unemployment, Stone County, 1963-1968 -- 27
11. Age and Sex of Persons in Labor Force, Stone County, 1960 -------- 29
12. Summary, Population, Labor Force, Employment Status, Stone County, 1940-1960 ------------------------------------- 30
13. Occupational Groups of Employed Persons, By Sex, Stone County, 1940-1960 ------------------------------------- 31
14. Labor Force Survey, Stone County, April 19, 1969 ---------------- 33
15. Commuting Pattern for Stone County, 1960 ---------------------- 34
16. All Occupations for Which Applicants Showed Potentiality ---------- 35
17. Principal Occupations for Which Applicants Showed Skill Developments and Greatest Potentiality ----------------------- 36
18. Family Income, Stone County, 1949-1959 ----------------------- 39
19. Volume of Sales, Stone County, 1968 -------------------------- 40
20. Outstanding F.H.A. Loans, Stone County, June 30, 1969 ---------- 48
21. Land Use Pattern, Stone County, 1954-1964 --------------------- 56
22. Types of Farms, Stone County, 1954-1964 ---------------------- 57
23. Trends in Livestock Enterprises, Stone County, 1955-1969 --------- 59
24. Employment Covered by Mississippi Employment Security Law, Stone County, 1968 -- 63
25. Chemical Analysis, Stone County Public Water Supplies ----------- 71
26. Minimum Observed Streamflow, Stone County -------------------- 72

Page

Tables

27. Tax Structure, Stone County, 1968-1969---------------------------- 88
28. Public Schools in Stone County, 1968-69--------------------------- 98
29. Churches in Stone County -- 101
30. Hospitals in Counties Surrounding Stone County -------------------- 104

INTRODUCTION

The Smaller Communities Program was designed to help alleviate employment problems in rural areas. It provides a wide range of employment services and has sufficient flexibility to meet the needs of areas with varying economic problems.

The objectives are to: (1) determine current and potential manpower resources of the area; (2) assist in evaluating the over-all economic resources of the area; (3) assist community groups, in cooperation with other agencies, in planning and carrying out a program for employment development; (4) provide employment counseling and placement assistance to individuals for jobs within or outside the area; and (5) assist in the development and initiation of training programs.

Life in many rural areas is characterized by high unemployment and lagging economy, and Stone County would be included in this group. Numbers of families in these areas have incomes at the poverty level. Community leaders have been unable in many instances to recognize and overcome their obstacles to employment development. They have not been able to effectively identify, evaluate, and publicize local resources in order to attract new industry.

Local residents have been at a disadvantage in seeking non-farm employment because of remoteness from metropolitan centers, inadequate general and vocational education, lack of specific knowledge of job opportunities, and general unfamiliarity with urban and industrial life.

There are 46 rural counties in Mississippi which do not contain an employment service office. These counties do not warrant the establishment of full-time offices because they are sparsely populated and/or have few job opportunties. Since existing offices normally provide applicant and employer services primarily to their immediate vicinities, the only service regularly available to most rural communities is that provided on an itinerant basis, mainly for taking unemployment insurance claims.

The Mississippi Employment Security Commission in operating the Smaller Communities Program has drawn upon the experience gained in the Rural Areas Development Program. The Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service through its Program Leader and local County Agents has been most cooperative and rendered invaluable services in this field of activity, as an adjunct to their Rural Areas Development Program. The Smaller Communities Program is under the direction of a "Rural Area Representative" who is responsible for relations with local community leaders; for coordinating necessary economic fact gathering, including manpower information; and for scheduling and over-all supervision of applicant services. Applicant services are provided by a mobile team of local people who are given special training in application-taking, aptitude test administration, and test interpretation. These services consist of registration, testing, and counseling as appropriate, in order to determine the occupational potential of the unemployed and underemployed workers, and to provide placement assistance to the extent possible within the area and elsewhere.

This publication is the first of a two-part series prepared by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission covering the operation of the Smaller Communities Program in Stone County. It reflects the economic pattern of the county and a study of the human and natural resources. All background information and factual data used in the compilation of this report were secured from various Federal and State agencies, departments, and commissions,

9

local sources, private firms and organizations, individuals, and a special manpower survey. Certain data related to employment, unemployment, and wage rates were based on information collected by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission in its administration of the Employment Security and Unemployment Insurance Laws of the State of Mississippi.

The manpower data includes information relative to 1,476 local residents who voluntarily participated in a preliminary special labor force survey conducted April 18 and 19, 1969, and 944 local residents who participated in an application-taking and aptitude-testing process during the period from April through June, 1969.

SMALLER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
STONE COUNTY

ECONOMIC BASE REPORT

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA

A. Area Definition and Location

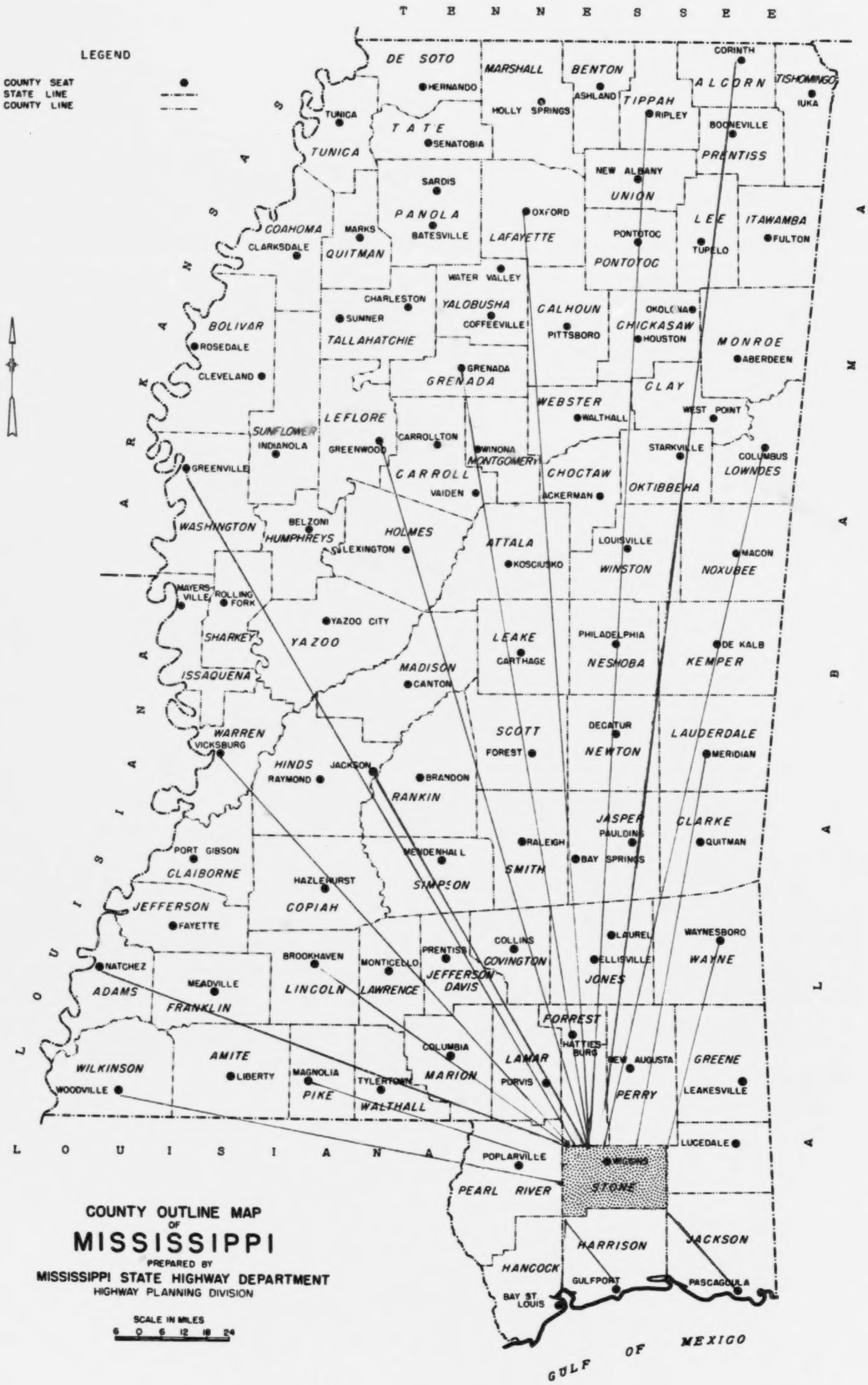
Stone County is located in the "Piney Woods" area of southeast Mississippi. It is bounded on the north by Forrest and Perry Counties; on the east by George and Jackson Counties; on the south by Harrison County; and on the west by Pearl River County. It is almost rectangular in shape, with an additional one-third of a township in the southwestern corner of the county. It is 27 miles wide from east to west, and 16 miles deep from north to south.

Wiggins, with a population of 1,591 in 1960, is the county seat, and the only incorporated town and main shopping center in the county. It is located in the north-central portion of the county where U. S. Highway 49 and State Highway 26 intersect. It is about 34 miles north of Gulfport which is on the Gulf of Mexico, 76 miles west of Mobile, Alabama, 40 miles south of Hattiesburg, and 130 miles southeast of Jackson, the State Capitol. Some of the major metropolitan markets of the South within a 450 mile radius are Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee; Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile, Alabama; Little Rock and Hot Springs, Arkansas; Atlanta, Georgia; Tallahassee and Jacksonville, Florida; Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and New Orleans, Louisiana; and Beaumont and Houston, Texas. The population of this market is over 25 million people and retail sales are estimated at about 30 billion dollars annually. In view of the excellent transportation facilities available, this area might be considered an overnight market from Stone County.

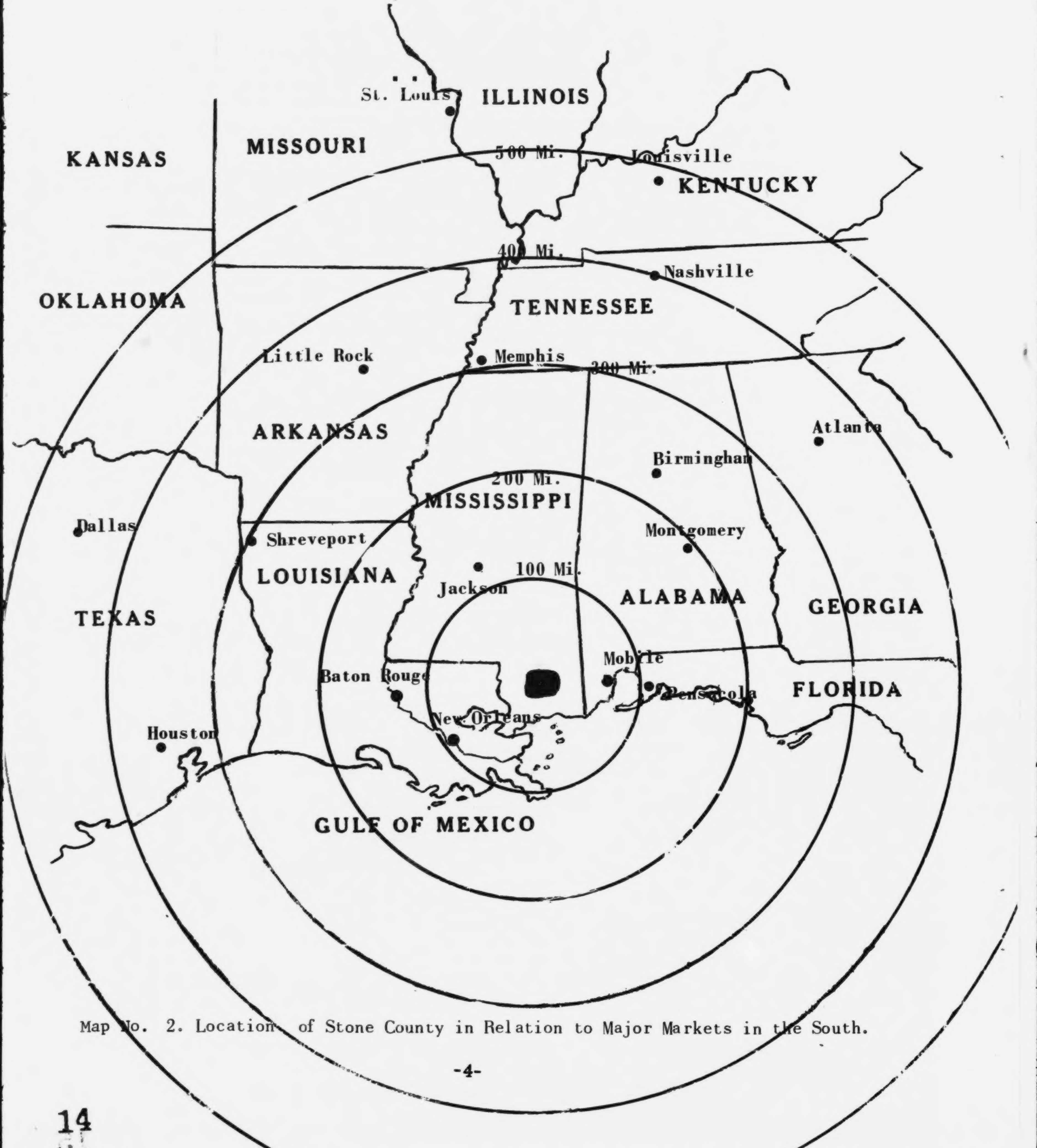
Stone County is easily accessible from all directions by paved highways. U. S. Highway 49, which is four-laned, bisects the county from north to south going through Wiggins and the villages of Bond, Perkinston, and McHenry. It intersects U. S. Highways 11 and 98 and Interstate 59 at Hattiesburg to the north, and U. S. Highway 90 and Interstate 10 at Gulfport to the south. State Highway 26 traverses the northern part of the county from east to west going through Wiggins. It connects with U. S. Highway 98 at Lucedale in adjoining George County, and intersects U. S. Highway 11 and Interstate 59 at Poplarville in adjoining Pearl River County. Numerous hard surfaced local roads connect with these main highways in the county.

The Illinois Central Railroad provides freight service to Stone County, but no passenger service. The railroad runs between Jackson and Gulfport bisecting Stone County from north to south almost parallel to U. S. Highway 49 serving Bond, Wiggins, Perkinston, and McHenry. Wiggins is the only agency station in the county.

Stone County is a rather typical "Piney Woods" area in the southeastern portion of the State, the economy traditionally dependent on timber and agriculture. Among the State's 82 counties, it ranks 62nd in size with a land area of 448 square miles, or 286,720 acres, and 81st in population with only 7,013 people in 1960.


T E N N E S S E E
LEGEND
COUNTY SEAT
STATE LINE
COUNTY LINE
A R K A N S A S
L O U I S I A N A
A L A B A M A
L O U I S I A N A
GULF OF MEXICO
DE SOTO
HERNANDO
MARSHALL
HOLLY SPRINGS
BENTON
ASHLAND
TIPPAH
RIPLEY
ALCORN
CORINTH
TISHOMINGO
IUKA
TUNICA
TATE
SENATOBIA
BOONEVILLE
PRENTISS
NEW ALBANY
UNION
SARDIS
PANOLA
BATESVILLE
OXFORD
LAFAYETTE
PONTOTOC
LEE
TUPELO
ITAWAMBA
FULTON
COAHOMA
CLARKSDALE
MARKS
QUITMAN
WATER VALLEY
YALOBUSHA
COFFEEVILLE
CHARLESTON
SUMNER
TALLAHATCHIE
CALHOUN
PITTSBORO
OKOLONA
CHICKASAW
HOUSTON
MONROE
ABERDEEN
BOLIVAR
ROSEDALE
CLEVELAND
GRENADA
WEBSTER
WALTHALL
CLAY
WEST POINT
SUNFLOWER
INDIANOLA
LEFLORE
GREENWOOD
CARROLLTON
CARROLL
VAIDEN
WINONA
MONTGOMERY
CHOCTAW
ACKERMAN
STARKVILLE
OKTIBBEHA
COLUMBUS
LOWNDES
GREENVILLE
WASHINGTON
BELZONI
HUMPHREYS
HOLMES
LEXINGTON
ATTALA
KOSCIUSKO
LOUISVILLE
WINSTON
MACON
NOXUBEE
MAYERSVILLE
ROLLING FORK
SHARKEY
YAZOO CITY
YAZOO
ISSAQUENA
LEAKE
CARTHAGE
PHILADELPHIA
NESHOBA
DE KALB
KEMPER
MADISON
CANTON
SCOTT
FOREST
DECATUR
NEWTON
LAUDERDALE
MERIDIAN
WARREN
VICKSBURG
HINDS
RAYMOND
JACKSON
BRANDON
RANKIN
JASPER
PAULDING
BAY SPRINGS
CLARKE
QUITMAN
RALEIGH
SMITH
PORT GIBSON
CLAIBORNE
MENDENHALL
SIMPSON
HAZLEHURST
COPIAH
JEFFERSON
FAYETTE
COLLINS
COVINGTON
LAUREL
ELLISVILLE
JONES
WAYNESBORO
WAYNE
NATCHEZ
ADAMS
MEADVILLE
FRANKLIN
BROOKHAVEN
LINCOLN
MONTICELLO
LAWRENCE
PRENTISS
JEFFERSON DAVIS
FORREST
HATTIESBURG
COLUMBIA
MARION
LAMAR
PURVIS
NEW AUGUSTA
PERRY
GREENE
LEAKESVILLE
WILKINSON
WOODVILLE
AMITE
LIBERTY
MAGNOLIA
PIKE
TYLERTOWN
WALTHALL
LUCEDALE
POPLARVILLE
PEARL RIVER
WIGGINS
STONE
GEORGE
HARRISON
JACKSON
HANCOCK
GULFPORT
PASCAGOULA
BAY ST. LOUIS
COUNTY OUTLINE MAP OF MISSISSIPPI
PREPARED BY
MISSISSIPPI STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HIGHWAY PLANNING DIVISION
SCALE IN MILES
6 0 6 12 18 24

Map No. 1. Location of Stone County in Mississippi


ILLINOIS
St. Louis
MISSOURI
KANSAS
500 Mi.
Louisville
KENTUCKY
400 Mi.
Nashville
OKLAHOMA
TENNESSEE
Little Rock
Memphis
300 Mi.
ARKANSAS
Atlanta
Birmingham
200 Mi.
MISSISSIPPI
Dallas
Shreveport
Montgomery
LOUISIANA
100 Mi.
Jackson
ALABAMA
GEORGIA
TEXAS
Mobile
Baton Rouge
Pensacola
FLORIDA
Houston
New Orleans
GULF OF MEXICO

Map No. 2. Location of Stone County in Relation to Major Markets in the South.

B. History of Area [1]

Stone County was one of the last counties in the State to be organized, being the 81st of the 82 counties in Mississippi. It was created from the northern portion of Harrison County which was organized in 1841. The legislative Act creating Stone County was approved on January 6, 1916, and it was named in honor of John M. Stone, one of the ablest and most constructive Governors following the reconstruction period after the Civil War. The Act stipulated that Wiggins would be the county seat, and defined the boundaries of the county as follows:

> "Beginning at the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 2 South, Range 13 West, thence running south along the western boundary line of Harrison County to the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 4 South, Range 13 West, thence running east to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 4 South, Range 13 West, thence running north to the northeast corner of Section 25, Township 4 South, Range 13 West, thence running east to the southeast corner of Section 21, Township 4 South, Range 9 West, thence running north along the eastern boundary line of the said Harrison County to the northeast corner of Section 4, Township 2 South, Range 9 West, thence running west along the northern boundary of said Harrison County to the point of beginning."

Thus, the history of Stone County is modern, the early history of the area being that of Harrison County. The first white settlers came in about 1830. The entire area was covered with virgin pine timber. There was little agriculture, no industry, and few inhabitants until about the turn of the century.

Perkinston is the oldest settlement in the county, a trading post having been established there about 1880 on land homesteaded by a Mr. Perkins; hence, the name of the village. It is located in the central part of Stone County about five miles south of Wiggins on U. S. Highway 49 and the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1912 Harrison County Agricultural High

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[1] Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

School was established here and it was later operated jointly by Harrison and Stone Counties. This institution was successful and has expanded into what is now known as the Gulf Coast Junior College with centers at Perkinston, Gautier in Jackson County, and Jefferson Davis at Handsboro in Harrison County. It is one of the outstanding junior college systems in the United States.

McHenry, the second oldest settlement, is located near the southern boundary of the county on U. S. Highway 49 and the Illinois Central Railroad. Dr. George McHenry homesteaded 160 acres of land in 1883 and the village grew up on a portion of it. The town flourished during the early 1900's as a sawmill town with a population of over 1, 200, a bank, a weekly newspaper, and many stores. The bank failed during the panic of 1929; the timber had all been cut; and the depression of the early 1930's saw McHenry become almost a ghost town.

Bond is one of the old settlements in the northern part of the county being located just south of the county line on U. S. Highway 49 and the Illinois Central Railroad. It, like McHenry, flourished as a sawmill town until the timber was gone, then it was almost deserted. Today there are only one or two stores, a post office, and it is mostly a rural community. It was named in honor of Preston Bond, one of the earliest settlers.

In 1886 Madison Hatten homesteaded 160 acres of land in the north central part of the county and a small village was established on a portion of it. The first store was opened in 1894 by Milton Robertson, a relative of Mr. Hatten's mother. The village was named Niles City in honor of Judge H. C. Niles. In 1896 a long cherished dream of the early settlers became a reality when a railroad was built through the center of the county from north to south between Hattiesburg and Gulfport, and it was named the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad. The railroad was extended to Jackson about 1912.

An attempt was made to secure a post office for Niles City, but the U. S. Post Office Department advised that there was already a post office by that name, and suggested another name be submitted. The name of Wiggins was chosen in honor of Wiggins Hatten, a pioneer citizen and the father of Madison Hatten. The post office request was granted and the name of the town was changed to Wiggins.

Wiggins was incorporated in 1904 when a petition was circulated and signed by two-thirds of the qualified electors residing in the proposed boundaries. Then, under the laws of the State and the power of Governor James K. Vardaman, a proclamation was signed March 26, 1904, incorporating the municipality of Wiggins. It had a population of 980 people by 1910.

The coming of the railroad provided a means of transportation that had previously not been available, and this was the key for the lumber industry. Sawmills sprang up every few miles along the railroad especially at Bond, Wiggins, Perkinston, and McHenry to cut the virgin pine timber which had been bought, mostly in large tracts by industrialists in the East and Midwest. Finkbine Lumber Company from Des Moines, Iowa, built one of the largest sawmills in South Mississippi at Wiggins about 1902.

By 1930, the virgin timber had been cut, the lands were denuded, little of the profits made from the timber were used to develop this area, and only a small portion of the land had been brought into cultivation. Sawmills and logging had provided most of the employment in the area for thirty years; there was only one other industry, a pickle factory, and little agricultural development to absorb idle laborers from the logging and sawmill operations. As a result, many were forced to find employment in other areas.

The population of the county has slowly but steadily increased and Wiggins, the county seat and only incorporated town, has enjoyed a little degree of industrial development in recent years. Since 1930, only a small percentage of the cut-over forest lands have been cleared for farming. Forestry has been encouraged and much of this idle land has again been stocked with stands of young pine trees. During the last decade there have been enough merchantable timber stands for wood using industries to move into the area again.

Lack of local capital has been a handicap to industrial development throughout the history of the county. In recent years, a great deal of effort has been put forth by local citizens to secure industries to manufacture forest products from the ever increasing timber production. These efforts reached a happy and successful climax when it was announced during the operation of the Smaller Communities Program in Stone County that International Paper Company will build a $10,000,000 wood products manufacturing center in Wiggins. This will pump much needed new blood into the economy of the county.

C. Topography [1/]

The topography of Stone County is mostly gently rolling hills with occasional grades up to 25 per cent. The county is traversed by many small and medium sized clear spring-fed streams that usually flow the year-round. Most of these small streams eventually empty into Red Creek or Black Creek, the two largest streams in the county. Surface and ground water are abundant throughout the area. Numerous flowing wells are found along Red Creek. Land elevations are mostly 150 to 300 feet above mean sea level. The minimum elevation is about 50 feet where Red Creek leaves the eastern border of the county, and the highest

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[1/] Soil Conservation Service, U.S.D.A., Local Office, Wiggins, Mississippi.

elevation is about 360 feet in the Smithtown Community. About one-fourth of the soils in the county are Orangeburg, Red Bay, and similar type Soil Series, which are highly productive for agricultural crops.

Stone County lies entirely within the Southern Pine Hills Physiographic District. This area is a part of the Lower Gulf Coastal Plain, and is a broad division of land forms. They include stream terraces along the main streams, and high terrace deposits which extend across the area in a pattern suggesting distributary ridges. Most of the upland topography results from recent geologic erosion on weak beds of clay, silty clay, and sandy clay of the Miocene-Pliocene-Pleistocene estaurine and deltaic sediment which underlie it.

The highest upland in the county is the Citronelle Formation, a terrace deposit of seemingly fluvial origin. The City of Wiggins is built upon an outcrop of the Citronelle, which is about seven miles wide from east to west. A larger outcrop of the Citronelle is the broad irregular shaped hilly belt, which lies south of Red Creek and extends from Pearl River County in the west, touching Harrison County to the south, and curving into George County to the east. In the western part of the county, the crest elevations extend from approximately 230 feet to about 360 feet. The beveled crests are from 170 to 325 feet in elevation along U. S. Highway 49. In the eastern part of the county, west of Bluff Creek, the crests range from 85 to 230 feet above mean sea level. The hill crests slope upwards to the northwest.

Large areas along Red Creek, Black Creek, Wolf River, Little Biloxi River, Biloxi River, and Tchoutacabouffa River and their upper valleys are outcrops of Graham Ferry and Pascagoula Formations. The topography is typically gently rolling and the drainage pattern is lace-like and dendritic. Much of the area lies between 50 and 200 feet above mean sea level.

Stone County is drained by six main stream systems. Black Creek and its tributaries drain the northeastern part of the county flowing through George County and emptying into the Pascagoula River in Jackson County. Red Creek enters the county in the northwest corner and flows diagonally southeasterly through the county draining the major portion of it. It also empties into the Pascagoula River in Jackson County. The extreme western part of the county is drained by tributaries of Wolf River, which flows into St. Louis Bay in Hancock County. The southern portion of the county is drained by Little Biloxi, Biloxi, and Tchoutacabouffa Rivers and their tributaries which empty into Back Bay at Biloxi.

D. Climate[1/]

The State of Mississippi is divided into ten areas or divisions within which the climatic features are reasonably homogeneous from agricultural and other viewpoints. Stone County is located in the southernmost division, the Coastal Division. This Division consists of six counties: the three adjoining the Mississippi Sound or the Gulf of Mexico are Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson; while the three just north of these are Pearl River, Stone, and George Counties. The following climatological description includes summaries based on weather data from within Stone County, estimates of climatic features for which there are too few or no observations within the county, and other climatic information of a general divisional nature.

The broad aspects of the Coastal Division climate are determined by a subtropical latitude (below 31° N. latitude), a large land mass to the north, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. The interaction of these influences, and the origin of the air mass moving over the area, all help to affect the weather and produce the changes. Based on a combination of the temperature reporting stations in the Division, the six-county area has a mean annual tempera-

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ESSA, State Climatologist, Weather Bureau, Jackson, Mississippi 39208.

ture of about 68° F. (1931-1960), and individual years show little range from near 66° F. to about 69° F. Rain and snow reports from these same stations give a divisional mean annual precipitation of 61 inches, and individual years have ranged from about 41 inches in 1954 to near 87 inches in 1961.

The day-to-day variations in temperature in the Coastal Division depend in large extent upon the origin of the air mass that is currently affecting the day's weather. The prevailing warm season air masses are moist, unstable and warm with resulting summer temperatures like those of the tropics further south. Temperatures in the Coastal Division climb to 90° F. or higher on an average of about 60 to 90 days per year; the fewer number of days occur near the Gulf Coast, and the number increases as one goes inland. Nearly all of these days occur during the six months from May to October. It is typical in the summertime to have daily maximum temperatures reaching 90 to 100° F. and extremes to exceed 100° F. Occasionally during the warmer season the pressure distribution alters to bring westerly to northerly winds to the Coastal Division. When this change is extended it results in period of hotter drier weather. If these periods are prolonged, drought conditions affecting agriculture may develop and the forest fire danger increases. During the 1931-1960 period, the mean temperature in the summer for the Division as a whole averaged about 81° F. with July being the warmest month; however, in individual years other months than July have been the hottest about nine out of sixteen times, with August being the hottest nearly half the time, and June the remainder. The thermometer reached 108° F. on July 15, 1963, at Merrill in adjoining George County.

Changes in temperature between one day and the next are usually much greater during the cold season than in the summertime. The diurnal rise in temperature from a day's lowest to its highest, taken over a number of years, averages about 15 to 20 degrees. The lower range tends to be near the Coast. During the annual course of temperatures, the average increase in temperature is greatest between March and April and amounts to about 7° F., while the greatest drop is between October and November of about 10° F.

Temperatures in the Coastal Division have dropped to 32° F. or colder on an average of from 5 to 20 or more days per year--with the fewer days near the Gulf Coast. The mean temperature for the winter months is about 54° F. January averages as the coldest month; however, in individual years December was the coldest month about two years out of five. In the winter, the Coastal Division is subject to moist tropical air which alternates with dry polar air. The usual weather cycle during the colder portion of the year is rain followed by a few days of relatively cool weather, which in turn are followed by a period of relatively warm balmy days, and then by another rain. When the center of one of the outbreaks of cold air from the North moves over or near Mississippi, it brings colder weather to the area; however, cold spells seldom last over about three days. A temperature of one degree above zero was reported on February 12, 1899, at Biloxi in Harrison County. This was during one of the few cold spells when daytime temperatures have not risen to well above the freezing mark.

Rainfall in the Coastal Division is generally of the shower type; prolonged rains are not too frequent and usually occur in the winter. The number of days with measurable precipitation as averaged over a number of years is about four days out of thirteen. At different locations the rainfall amounts may be highly variable, and this is due to the erratic pattern of thunderstorm rainfall. Fall is usually the dry season and averages about one-fifth of the annual precipitation in the Coastal Division. October is the driest month with an average rainfall of 2.9 inches. Summer is usually the wettest season, and averages slightly less than one-third of the annual precipitation. July is the wettest month with an average of 6.2 inches of rainfall.

Lightning or thunder occurs during a year on about two-thirds of the days with precipitation; usually two or more days each month, except that at times, a month in the cooler portion of the year may have one or none. Slightly over one-half of these thunderstorm days is in the three summer months. Thunderstorms are apt to be most frequent in July, occuring on about one-half of its days, and decrease in the other months to a minimum in the late fall and early winter. Generally, the more intense rainfalls are associated with thunderstorms and rates of rainfall of over three inches an hour have been reported in the Coastal Division. During the warmer months, most of the rainfall is associated with afternoon or evening thundershowers which often recur in spells of considerable regularity. When the slow moving rain suppressing hight pressure areas increase in frequency, fall becomes the season of least precipitation and fewest thunderstorms. Thunderstorms in the late fall, winter, and early spring may occur at any hour of the day or night; they are usually associated with the passing weather systems and more apt to be accompanied by higher winds than in the summer. Thunderstorms are only occasionally accompanied by hail; most of that which has been reported in the Coastal Division was less than an inch in diameter. Hail damage has occurred in some cases but then usually in a small part of a county, often less than a few square miles.

Table 1. Climatological Data, Wiggins, Stone County
(Mostly 1948-1968)

Item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Mean Precipitation (Inches)	4.8	5.1	6.0	5.1	4.2	5.4	6.2	5.6	5.4	2.9	4.5	5.8	61.0
Mean No. Days with 0.10 Inches or More Precipitation	6	6	6	5	5	7	10	8	6	4	4	7	74
Mean No. Days with 0.50 Inches or More Precipitation	3	3	3	2	3	4	5	3	3	2	2	4	37
Greatest Precipitation (Inches)	10.0	14.0	14.9	11.8	8.2	10.9	12.4	10.5	13.3	10.0	20.0	12.8	87.2
Year*	47	66	61	64	58	56	49	55	57	59	48	61	61
Least Precipitation (Inches)	1.12	0.42	0.26	0.99	0.43	0.20	1.41	3.0	0.77	0	0.10	1.90	40.29
Year*	57	57	55	65	51	60	47	50	53	63	49	58	63
Greatest Precipitation, 1 day (in.)	4.1	6.15	4.8	5.2	3.45	6.0	3.1	7.33	7.12	5.4	5.8	4.7	
Year*	65	61	61	64	58	56	55	55	47	67	61	61	
Mean Daily **Temperature** (° F.)	50	53	58	66	73	79	81	81	76	67	57	51	62
Mean Daily Maximum **Temperature** (° F.)	62	65	71	79	86	92	93	93	88	81	71	64	70
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature (° F.)	38	40	44	53	61	67	69	69	64	53	44	38	53
Mean No. **Days Temperature** 90° F. or Higher	0	0	0	**	9	20	27	26	14	3	0	0	99
Mean No. Days **Temperature 32**° F. or Lower	11	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	11	39

* **Year** - indicated as "47" is 1947, similarly for other years.

** Less **than** 0.5 Day

Source: ESSA, State Climatologist, Weather Bureau, Jackson, Mississippi 39208.

Excessive rates of rainfall of more than one-quarter of an inch of rain in five minutes may occur in any season. Occasionally, there are torrential rainfalls in Mississippi. Generally, the more intense of these are associated with thunderstorms, particularly for the shorter periods of time. However, tropical storms usually cause the heavier rains over longer periods of time. For design purposes in Stone County, it is estimated that a 2.75 inch rainfall in 30 minutes has a mean recurrence of about 25 years. Based upon studies of rainfall in Stone and other nearby counties, the following table might be helpful in practical problems involving Stone County. Snow is not of much economic importance in the Coastal Division.

Table 2. Rainfall Frequency, Stone County

Duration	Return Period			
	2 Years	10 Years	50 Years	100 Years
1 Hour	2.3 Inches	3.2 Inches	3.9 Inches	4.1 Inches
3 Hours	3.2 Inches	4.5 Inches	5.7 Inches	6.4 Inches
12 Hours	4.7 Inches	7.0 Inches	9.0 Inches	10.0 Inches
1 Day	5.3 Inches	8.3 Inches	10.9 Inches	12.0 Inches
2 Days	6.2 Inches	9.1 Inches	12.3 Inches	13.6 Inches
7 Days	8.7 Inches	11.9 Inches	15.8 Inches	17.2 Inches

On the day of the winter solstice (December 22) the sun is above the horizon in the Coastal Division for 10 hours and about 11 minutes. After that date the length of the day increases until the summer solstice (June 21) when the sun is above the horizon 14 hours and about 8 minutes. In a typical year the Division receives about 60 to 65 per cent of the possible sunshine, some 2,700 to 2,800 hours between sunrise and sunset. The amount of sunshine is related to the cloudiness which over a year's time averages covering a little more than half of the sky. For most of the Division, December and January average the most cloudiness in a year, and October the least. It is estimated for Stone County that the month of May has the largest percentage of possible sunshine, about 65 to 70 per cent, while December, January, and February would average the least with about 50 per cent.

Relative humidity values may vary widely during a day due to changes in temperatures, wind direction, and local conditions. Ordinarily, the lower relative humidities are in the afternoon, increasing to the higher percentages late at night and in the early morning hours. Relative humidities usually range from 50 to 90 per cent or higher. High humidity is prevalent in the Coastal Division with the northern portion being slightly less humid than near the Gulf Coast the year around. From early May until about the middle of September, there develops at times a combination of high temperature together with high humidity. This usually builds up progressively for several days, and may become sultry and oppressive for one or more days. The principal relief is by thundershowers, sometimes accompanied by locally violent and destructive winds. Heavy fog occurs occasionally, most frequent in the early morning, generally dissipating early in the forenoon and rarely lasts throughout the day.

Dewpoints in the Coastal Division are estimated to have, over a year's time, a mean daily average in the upper 50's; they are estimated to average in the lower 40's in December and January and to rise to the lower 70's in July and August. In some years consistently high dewpoints may persist for 12 or more hours in any month. There have been cases of such persistence ranging from dewpoints of around 70^{o} F. in January and increasing in the other months to at least in the upper 70's in July and August.

The prevailing wind direction is from off of the Gulf of Mexico. At some locations there may be some shifting of the direction due to local terrain effects, such as adjoining bodies of water, hills, orientation of the valleys, etc. The speed of the wind is generally under 10 miles an hour, except during and near periods of storms. There is normally a considerable variation in the wind speed from day to night, with the strongest winds just after noon or during the hottest part of the day, and the weakest winds during the cool hours of the night. Important exceptions are the relatively short periods of strong winds associated with passing fronts, thunderstorms or squall lines; the prolonged periods of windy weather accompany intense slow-moving low pressure disturbances coming in from the west. The wind speed is apt to be greatest in the winter and early spring, and least in the summer. Wind speeds of about 45 to 50 miles per hour or more are estimated to have a mean recurrence interval of about two years in Stone County. Higher winds do occur and if a 50-year mean recurrence interval meets construction design purposes, then most Stone County locations should provide for an extreme mile of wind with a sustained speed of around 75 miles per hour or more at 30 feet above ground level.

Generally, the higher winds are most apt to be associated with severe local storms, which begin as thunderstorms. The darker the sky, the greater the vertical extent of the clouds, and the more likely the storm will be severe. These disturbances are perhaps most severe when they occur along squall lines. Then the thundersqualls are accompanied by severe local windstorms with damaging velocities; this damage is less severe but is sometimes confused with that which occurs along the touchdown path of a tornado. However, the "straight-line winds" with a thundersquall produce a different pattern of damage more uniform than that of a tornado.

Over an extended period of years, hurricanes or the remnants of tropical disturbances have caused damage in Stone County -- in slightly more than one-fifth of the years. The chances for associated wind damage in the county decrease as one goes inland away from the Gulf of Mexico. However, if for construction design purposes a 100-year mean recurrence interval is to be used, then most of Stone County locations should provide for an extreme mile of wind with a sustained speed of 95 to 100 miles per hour or more at 30 feet above ground level. The gusts during that mile of wind would be higher. In most years the Stone County damage due to hurricanes or tropical storms is mainly due to the heavy rains associated with the storms and the resulting local floods. The typical hurricane brings 6 to 12 inches of rainfall to the area it crosses. Hurricane Camille, which completely devastated the Gulf Coast on the night of August 17, 1969, with winds up to 200 miles per hour or more, caused considerable damage in Stone County, and even up to 50 to 75 miles northward as it moved inland the entire length of the State. This is said to be the worst hurricane ever to hit the United States.

The strongest winds on the ground are of a very localized but destructive nature, and are associated with the immediate vicinity of a tornado funnel. Tornadoes in Mississippi vary considerably, some touch the ground for less than a minute, or the end that touches down causes damage in an area of only a few yards across; others last longer and/or the damage occurs over an extended path. They usually appear as an extension from the parent thunderstorm cloud system; many if not most never reach the ground, others only momentarily touch down and rise again before they dissipate and finally disappear. Its most distinguishing feature is the funnel-shaped cloud stretching downward towards the ground with a fast sustained organized rotary motion about a nearly vertical axis. In Mississippi, the funnel cloud whirls usually in a counter-clockwise direction with winds estimated to be up to near 300 miles per hours. When seen above the earth's surface, it is best described as a "funnel cloud aloft", while when it is in contact with the ground it should be called a "tornado".

A partial vacuum is formed by the rotating vortex, and the reduction of pressure contributes to the damaging effects on objects encompassed by the spinning funnel of the tornado. At times this funnel may be up to several hundred yards or more in diameter. The pattern of uprooted trees, scattered debris and other damage on one side of the path, when compared with that on the opposite side, shows distinct evidence of the rotary motion and the furious in-blowing winds at and near the perimeter of the funnel. As a funnel cloud aloft touches down and moves along the ground, the outer ring of rotating winds generally becomes dark with dust and debris collected in the lower portion of the funnel cloud and may eventually darken the entire cloud. The width of the surface cloud of dust and debris is usually much greater than the width of the actual water droplet cloud. Mature tornadoes assume a variety of shapes and thicknesses; the longer it touches the ground the darker it becomes.

The tornado winds have a distinctive roar which can be heard for several miles. The roar of a tornado increases as the funnel nears the ground, and is loudest when the tornado moves across the surface. Tornadoes can occur in any county in Mississippi, and any hour of the day or night. On a year-around basis, the over-all chances of a tornado touchdown in Stone County increases slightly as one goes inland, but years may go by without one touching down within the county. During a recent 15-year period in Mississippi, there was an average of one tornado per year in about 3,000 square miles. The area of Stone County is about 448 square miles.

E. Population

According to the 1960 Census data, the population of Stone County was 7,013, which was an average of a little less than 16 persons per square mile making it the third least densely populated county in Mississippi. Almost one-third of the land area of the county is included in the De Soto National Forest and the University of Mississippi Forest, both of which are almost completely uninhabited. There were 1867 households in the county with an average of 3.56 persons per household.

Stone County was created from a part of Harrison County which had been organized for 75 years; hence, it was already populated at near its present rate when it was formed. The 1920 Census showed a population of 6, 528, but it decreased 12.6 per cent to 5,704 in 1930. Then, an increasing trend started and the population has steadily increased since. Stone County is one of a very few strictly rural counties in the State that gained in population between 1950 and 1960. The Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, Division of Sociology and Rural Life, estimated that the population increased to 7, 600, or 9.2 per cent, between 1960 and mid-1966; whereas, the State's growth rate was 8.2 per cent.

The racial composition of the population has always been predominately white, about 75 per cent white and 25 per cent Negro.

Table 3. Population of Stone County, 1920-1960, By Race, And Cumulative Per Cent Change

Year	Total Pop.	Per Cent Change	White	Per Cent Change	Non-White	Per Cent Change
1920	6,528		4,206		2,322	
1930	5,704	-12.6	4,280	1.8	1,424	-38.7
1940	6,155	- 5.7	4,562	8.5	1,593	-31.4
1950	6,264	- 4.0	4,899	16.5	1,365	-41.2
1960	7,013	7.4	5,307	33.7	1,706	-26.3

Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

There is considerable variance between the patterns of population change in the different political subdivisions and the county as a whole during the period 1930 to 1960. The population of the county steadily increased during the entire period; increasing 7.9 per cent between 1930 and 1940, and 1.8 per cent between 1940 and 1950, then 12 per cent between 1950 and 1960. Beats One and Three followed a similar pattern, but gained population at a much more accelerated rate. Beat Two gained slightly between 1930 and 1940, then lost population during the remainder of the period, resulting in a net loss of 18.7 per cent between 1930 and 1960. Beat Four lost 12.3 per cent of its population between 1930 and 1940, then gained during the next two decades enough to have a net loss of only four per cent during the entire period. Beat Five enjoyed a gain of 17.4 per cent in its population between 1930 and 1940, but lost more than this gain during the next decade, and the population remained static between 1950 and 1960. The glaring disparity in the distribution of population between the beats has just recently been corrected by the county being redistricted.

Table 4. Population of Political Subdivisions, Stone County, 1930-1960

Year	Total Pop.	BEATS				
		1	2	3	4	5
1930	5,704	2,557	723	998	332	1,094
1940	6,155	2,713	738	1,147	273	1,284
1950	6,264	2,894	696	1,298	305	1,071
1960	7,013	3,582	588	1,451	321	1,071

Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

Population is classified by the Bureau of the Census as urban or rural, based on place of residence. The urban population comprises all persons living in places of 2,500 inhabitants or more, incorporated as towns and cities, but there are no such size towns in Stone County. Hence, the entire population of Stone County is classifed as rural. The rural population is subdivided into rural-farm population and rural-nonfarm population. The rural-farm population comprises all rural residents living on farms of 10 or more acres from which sales of farm products amounted to $50 or more in 1959, or on places of less than 10 acres from which sales of farm products amounted to $250 or more in 1959. The rural-nonfarm population consists of all the remaining rural population.

A majority of the population of Stone County was classified as rural-farm population up to 1930, but after the depression of the 1930's a declining trend started. In 1940 and 1950 about 43 per cent of the total population was classified as rural-farm population. Then, it decreased sharply during the next decade with only 15 per cent of the total population being classified as rural-farm population in 1960. This is also reflected in Agricultural Census data which show a loss of about 30 per cent in the number of farm operators between 1954 and 1964. The number of farm tenants decreased 50 per cent, much more proportionately than did the number of farm operators during the same period, even though Stone County has never had a very high proportion of tenancy. It is noted that the average age of farm operators has increased indicating that the heaviest losses of farm operators have been in the younger age groups.

Table 5. Farm Operators, Characteristics As to Race, Tenancy, and Age, Stone County, 1945-1964

Item	1945	1950	1954	1959	1964	% Change 1954-1964
Number Farm Operators	670	647	620	485	437	-29.5
White	564	544	541	431	403	-25.5
Non-White	106	103	79	54	34	-57.0
Proportion of Tenancy (%)	6.6	1.9	5.2	3.9	3.7	-----
Average Age (Years)	49.1	N.A.	N.A.	52.5	53.2	-----

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, Mississippi.

The rural-nonfarm population, of course, followed an opposite trend, increasing from 45 per cent in 1930 to 85 per cent in 1960. An examination for racial characteristics shows that in 1930 there was 41 per cent of the white population classified as rural-nonfarm, while 56 per cent of the non-white population was so classified. But by 1960 there was 82 per cent of the white population classified as rural-nonfarm; whereas, 93 per cent or nearly all of the non-white population was classified as rural-nonfarm.

Table 6. Rural-Farm and Rural-Nonfarm Population Changes, By Race, Stone County, 1930-1960

Year		Total Pop.	Per Cent	Rural-Farm	Per Cent	Rural-Nonfarm	Per Cent
1930	Total	5,704		3,109	54.5	2,595	45.5
	White	4,280	75.0	2,488	58.7	1,792	41.3
	Non-White	1,424	25.0	621	43.6	803	56.4
1940	Total	6,155		2,622	42.6	3,533	57.4
	White	4,562	74.1	2,188	48.0	2,374	52.0
	Non-White	1,593	25.9	434	27.2	1,159	72.8
1950	Total	6,264		2,674	42.7	3,590	57.3
	White	4,899	78.2	2,209	45.1	2,690	54.9
	Non-White	1,365	21.8	465	34.1	900	65.9
1960	Total	7,013		1,057	15.1	5,956	84.9
	White	5,307	75.7	945	17.8	4,362	82.2
	Non-White	1,706	24.3	112	6.6	1,594	93.4

Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

Educational Level

Census data on the educational attainment of the population of Stone County indicate a need for more formal education. The median years of school completed by persons 25 years old and over in the rural-farm population increased from 8.0 years to 10.2 years between 1940 and 1960. The median years of school completed by the same age group of the rural-nonfarm population increased from 8.1 years to 9.8 years during the same period. It is to be noted that the rural-farm population made considerable more progress during the last decade than did the rural-nonfarm segment. The educational level of Stone County is significantly above the State average of 8.9 years of school completed.

Table 7. Median Years of School Completed, Persons 25 Years Old and Over, Stone County, 1940-1960

Population	1940	1950	1960
Rural-Farm	8.0	8.8	10.2
Rural-Nonfarm	8.1	8.9	9.8

Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

Age and Sex Distribution

Complete numerical and proportional age and sex distributions, by race, of the population of Stone County for 1930 and 1960 are shown in Table 8. In 1930, the median age of the white population was about 21 years, both male and female, and the median age of the non-white population was about 23 years for both sexes--not much difference. But, by 1960, the median age of the white males had increased to about 26 years and the white females had increased to about 27 years; whereas, the median age of the non-white males decreased to about 20 years and the non-white females increased to about 24 years. During this period of time the white population increased 1,027 and the non-white population increased only 282, about the same proportional rate. The sex distribution remained almost evenly divided in both races.

There was a highly significant proportionate increase in the number of people in the higher age groups -- 45 years old and over -- particularly in the white population between 1930 and 1960, and to a lesser degree in the non-white population. This increase in the proportion of older persons may be at least partially explained by better health services and facilities with a resulting decreased death rate. However, there was a significant relative decrease in both populations in the age groups between 15 and 35 years, which leads to the conclusion that this situation was caused by out-migration to other areas, no doubt for better employment opportunities.

Table 8. Age and Sex Distribution of the White and Non-White Populations, Stone County, 1930 and 1960

Age Groups (Years)	White				Non-White			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
	1930				1930			
Under 5	245	11.3	228	10.7	72	10.1	59	8.3
5-9	261	12.1	286	13.5	100	14.0	74	10.4
10-14	265	12.3	246	11.6	85	11.9	94	13.3
15-19	243	11.3	261	12.3	74	10.3	80	11.3
20-24	221	10.2	215	10.1	48	6.7	71	10.0
25-29	146	6.8	154	7.3	34	4.8	45	6.3
30-34	117	5.4	116	5.5	33	4.6	44	6.2
35-44	218	10.1	224	10.6	73	10.2	105	14.8
45-54	196	9.1	196	9.2	91	12.7	68	9.6
55-64	137	6.4	120	5.7	70	9.8	36	5.1
65-74	83	3.8	60	2.8	25	3.5	24	3.4
75 & Over	26	1.2	17	0.8	10	1.4	9	1.3
Total	2,157		2,123		715		709	
Median Age	21.5		20.9		22.8		23.3	
	1960				1960			
Under 5	238	8.9	272	10.3	128	15.0	121	14.1
5-9	259	9.7	250	9.5	114	13.4	124	14.4
10-14	283	10.6	268	10.2	122	14.3	103	12.0
15-19	359	13.5	312	11.8	67	7.9	42	4.9
20-24	179	6.7	143	5.4	43	5.0	53	6.2
25-29	137	5.1	152	5.8	41	4.8	45	5.2
30-34	145	5.4	143	5.4	45	5.3	50	5.8
35-44	299	11.2	316	12.0	79	9.3	81	9.4
45-54	299	11.2	299	11.4	81	9.5	84	9.8
55-64	235	8.8	217	8.2	55	6.4	68	7.9
65-74	170	6.4	173	6.6	52	6.1	58	6.8
75 & Over	65	2.4	89	3.4	26	3.0	29	3.4
Total	2,668		2,634		853		858	
Median Age	25.6		27.4		19.7		23.7	

Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

II. STONE COUNTY'S LABOR FORCE

A. Trends in Employment and Unemployment

According to U. S. Census data total employment in Stone County decreased from 2,039 in 1940 to 1,826 in 1950. However, the trend turned upward during the next decade with total employment increasing to 2,088 in 1960. This is a little perplexing in that the trend in employment often follows rather closely the trend in population. Between 1940 and 1950 the population increased nearly two per cent while employment decreased 10.4 per cent. Then, between 1950 and 1960 the population increased 12 per cent while employment increased 14.1 per cent.

Table 9. Population, Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment, Stone County, 1940-1960

Year	Population		Labor Force		Employed		Unemployed	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1940	3,068	3,087	1,776	457	1,623*	416*	153	41
1950	3,179	3,085	1,500	378	1,453	373	47	5
1960	3,521	3,492	1,504	674	1,444	644	60	30

*This includes 197 males and 64 females employed on emergency public work programs (WPA, NYA, etc.)
Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

Unemployment was highly variable during this period. There were 194 people reported as unemployed in 1940, which was 8.7 per cent of the labor force, a high rate of unemployment. However, at that time 261 people were employed on emergency public work programs of a temporary nature and if these had been considered as unemployed, it would have caused the unemployment rate to rise to the extremely high rate of 20.4 per cent of the labor force. By

1950, unemployment had dropped to the low rate of 2.8 per cent of the labor force with only 52 people reported as unemployed. Then, in 1960, there were 90 people unemployed, a moderate rate of 4.1 per cent of the labor force. During the five-year period, 1964-1968, the rate of unemployment is estimated to have averaged 5.7 per cent of the labor force, varying from a low of 4.2 per cent to a hight of 8.3 per cent.

Table 10. Estimates of Labor Force and Unemployment,
Stone County, 1963-1968

Year	Labor Force	Total Unempl.	Per Cent of Labor Force	Covered Workers*	Insured Unempl.**	Per Cent of Covered Workers
1963	2,418	170	7.0	901	62	6.9
1964	2,410	179	7.4	985	42	4.3
1965	2,532	120	4.7	973	44	4.5
1966	2,536	210	8.3	918	31	3.4
1967	2,480	104	4.2	966	29	3.0
1968	2,498	108	4.3	964	30	3.1

*Number of workers covered by the Mississippi Employment Security Law.
**Average Number of continued claims for Unemployment Insurance.
Source: Research and Statistics Department, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.

Out of a total of nearly 2,400 people employed in Stone County in 1968, an average of only 964 or about 40 per cent, were covered by the Mississippi Employment Security Law. The average number of insured unemployed was only 30 workers, or 3.1 per cent of the covered work force. For the five-year period 1964-1968, there was an average of 960 covered workers, and an average of 35 insured unemployed, or 3.6 per cent of the covered work force. It is recognized that these figures are not compatible with Census figures on unemployment. However, two points should be remembered in considering the rate of unemployment: (1) employment in Stone County covered under the Mississippi Employment Security Law represents only about 40 per cent of total employment in the county, and (2) Census data represents employment for just one specific week during Census taking years, usually about the first of April.

A special labor force survey conducted in Stone County, April 18-19, 1969, showed 344 people not currently employed (persons either actively seeking work, or not in the labor force, but potentially available for work), and 153 underemployed (persons working less than full-time, or at jobs which do not make use of or pay according to, their skills, training, and experience). There were 1,476 people who voluntarily participated in the survey.

No doubt there is considerable unemployment in Stone County. In addition to this, the problem of underemployment, as indicated by preceding data and which will be further pointed out, is serious. For example, 231 farm operators reported working off their farms for 100 days or more in 1964, which was nearly 53 per cent of the total number of farm operators in the county.

B. Current Labor Force

Since the term labor force is referred to many times in this publication, and much Census data are used pertaining to same, it seems appropriate that it be defined. In U. S. Census data the term labor force includes all persons classified as employed or unemployed, which are described as follows. Employed persons comprise all civilians 14 years old and over who were either (a) "at work" -- those who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or in a family business; or (b) were "with a job but not at work" -- those who did not work and were not looking for work, but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, illness, or other personal reasons. Persons were classified as unemployed if they were 14 years old and over and not "at work" but looking for work. Also, persons waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off were counted as unemployed. It must be remembered that all such data are recorded for a specific week in Census-taking years and may not reflect the situation for an entire year. Yet, they serve as reliable guides.

There were 2,178 persons in the labor force in Stone County, according to the 1960 Census. This represented 31 per cent of the total population, and 44.7 per cent of the population 14 years old and over. There was 61.5 per cent of the males 14 years old and over in the labor force; and 27.7 per cent of the females of the same age in the labor force. By way of comparison, Census data show that 51.6 per cent of the State's population 14 years old and over was in the labor force in 1960, which included 71.8 per cent of the males and 32.8 per cent of the females. The distribution of the labor force by sex and age groups is shown in the following table.

Table 11. Age and Sex of Persons in Labor Force,
Stone County, 1960

Age Groups	Male	Female
14 to 17 Years Old	52	13
18 to 24 Years Old	197	119
25 to 34 Years Old	331	103
35 to 44 Years Old	405	116
45 to 64 Years Old	477	300
65 Years Old and Over	54	23
Total	1,516*	674

*Includes 12 Persons in the Armed Forces.
Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

Federal Child Labor Laws make it unlawful for any business firm to employ in any mill, cannery, workshop, factory or manufacturing plant a child under 14 years of age, or any child over the age of 14 years and under the age of 16 years, unless such child has complied with or is complying with compulsory school attendance laws. Mississippi had such a low for many years, but the Legislature repealed it in 1956. Census data for 1960 show that the population of Stone County in the 14 to 17 year old group was 516 and of this number there were 494 enrolled in school. This explains why there is such a small number in this age group in the labor force. A summary of the population, labor force, and employment status for the three decennial Census periods, 1940, 1950, and 1960 is shown as follows.

Table 12. Summary - Population, Labor Force, Employment Status, Stone County, 1940-1960

Item	1940	1950	1960	% Change 1950-1960
Total Population	6, 155	6, 264	7, 013	12.0
Pop. 14 Yrs. Old and Over	4, 399	4, 369	4, 872	11.5
Labor Force	2, 233	1, 878	2, 178	16.0
Per Cent of Population 14 Yrs. Old and Over	50.8	43.0	44.7	--
Employment	2, 039*	1, 826	2, 088	14.3
Agricultural	630	473	108	-77.2
Non-Agricultural	1, 409	1, 353	1, 980	46.3
Unemployment	194	52	90	73.1

*Includes 261 people employed on emergency public work programs (WPA, NYA, etc.)
Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

Significant changes have occurred in recent years in the number of people employed in the different occupational groups in Stone County. Agricultural employment in 1960 provided work for only 108 people, which was a decrease of 77.2 per cent from 1950. This decrease in agricultural employment is following a nationwide trend and no doubt will continue for some considerable time, but not at such an accelerated pace. It is of concern that in this strictly rural Southeast Mississippi County the agricultural employment now accounts for only about five per cent of the total employment in the area, as compared with 26 per cent in 1950 and 31 per cent in 1940.

Table 13. Occupational Groups of Employed Persons, By Sex, Stone County, 1940-1960

Occupational Groups	1940	1950	1960	% Change 1950-1960
Male Employed				
Professional, Technical, and Kindred	60	105	136	29.5
Farmers and Farm Managers	388	400	44	-89.0
Managers, Officials & Proprietors (Exc. Farm)	105	138	166	20.3
Clerical and Sales Workers	64	81	111	37.0
Craftsmen and Skilled Workers	99	156	275	76.3
Operatives and Kindred (Semi-Skilled)	137	256	299	16.8
Private Household Workers	8	1	0	--
Service Workers (Except Domestic)	40	22	36	63.6
Farm Laborers and Farm Foremen	114	24	47	95.8
Unpaid Family Workers	122	40	0	--
Laborers Except Farm and Mine	275	215	264	22.8
Occupations Not Reported	14	15	66	340.0
Total Male Employed	1,426*	1,453	1,444	0.6
Female Employed				
Professional, Technical, and Kindred	67	57	72	26.3
Farmers and Farm Managers	2	3	0	--
Managers, Officials & Proprietors (Exc. Farm)	14	21	39	85.7
Clerical and Sales Workers	39	82	164	100.0
Craftsmen and Skilled Workers	1	1	5	400.0
Operatives and Kindred (Semi-Skilled)	80	92	154	67.4
Private Household Workers	110	38	106	178.9
Service Workers (Except Domestic)	20	50	64	28.0
Farm Laborers and Farm Foremen	3	2	0	--
Unpaid Family Workers	0	2	4**	100.0
Laborers Except Farm and Mine	8	22	15	-31.8
Occupations Not Reported	8	2	25	1,150.0
Total Female Employed	352*	373	644	72.7

*Does not include 197 males and 64 females employed on emergency public work programs (WPA, NYA, etc.)

**Not included in the total

Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

Table 13 shows the number of people employed in Stone County by occupational groups, or kind of work performed, at the time of the Census-taking periods in 1940, 1950, and 1960. Among the employed males there was a sharp decrease in agricultural occupations and in unpaid family workers, who were mostly employed in agriculture, between 1950 and 1960. Otherwise, there was a significant increase in the number employed in most all other occupations; yet, the total number of males employed remained at about the same level. The same general situation existed among the females employed in various occupations. However, total female employment increased nearly 73 per cent between 1950 and 1960.

To supplement Census data, a special labor force survey was conducted in April, 1969, under the supervision of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission to determine the labor supply and general characteristics of the labor available for staffing any industry which might be interested in locating in Stone County. The survey was sponsored by the County Board of Supervisors.

A questionnaire was used to register all workers in Stone County who would be interested in employment in a new manufacturing plant if it located in the area. The form was designed so as to determine the number of workers who were not currently employed, or were underemployed. Participation in the survey was entirely voluntary. Out of 1,376 people who registered, there were 344 who reported that they were not currently employed, 153 underemployed, and 248 who were employed outside the county, but indicated a desire to obtain comparable employment in Stone County.

Table 14. Labor Force Survey, Stone County, April 19, 1969

Item	Total	White			Non-White		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total Number Registrants	1,476	647	603	1,250	95	131	226
Number Not Currently Employed*	344	58	250	308	6	30	36
Number Underemployed**	153	56	71	127	4	22	26
Number Employed Outside County	248	173	45	218	25	5	30
Age Groups							
16-20 Years Old	267	121	93	214	22	31	53
21-30 Years Old	317	139	130	269	25	23	48
31-40 Years Old	289	118	130	248	11	30	41
41-50 Years Old	296	120	137	257	18	21	39
Over 50 Years Old	307	149	113	262	19	26	45
Years School Completed							
8 Years and Less	200	90	39	129	35	36	71
9 - 11 Years	446	155	198	353	32	61	93
12 Years	497	229	222	451	20	26	46
1 - 3 Years College	226	111	101	212	7	7	14
College Graduate	107	62	43	105	1	1	2
Work Experience							
Mechancial	194	177	3	180	14	0	14
Machine Shop	81	72	3	75	6	0	6
Welding	185	169	4	173	12	0	12
Electrical	102	97	1	98	4	0	4
Carpentry	180	167	0	167	13	0	13
Woodworking	107	94	1	95	10	2	12
Other Construction	156	139	0	139	17	0	17
Sheet Metal	56	52	1	53	3	0	3
Plumbing	110	100	0	100	10	0	10
Office Work and Secretarial	233	64	155	219	4	10	14
Sewing Machine Operator	159	3	138	141	0	18	18
Assembly Work	63	32	23	55	2	6	8
Sawmill Work	176	134	3	137	38	1	39
Other Plant Work	268	112	122	234	17	17	34
Farm Work	402	315	42	357	26	19	45
Other	769	333	302	635	46	88	134

*Persons either actively seeking work (unemployed) or not in the labor force, but potentially available for work.

**Persons working less than full-time (who wish full-time work) or at jobs which do not make use of, or pay according to, their skills, training, and experience.

Commuting Pattern

All of the data in Tables 9, 11, 12 and 13 regarding employment, unemployment, and the labor force were taken from the publications, "United Census of Population, Mississippi, General Social and Economic Characteristics" for the years 1940, 1950, and 1960. The 1960 publication shows that there were 445 residents of Stone County reported as working outstide the county, but the place of work is not shown. In the meantime, the Bureau of the Census has compiled such data, but it has not been published.

The Mississippi Employment Security Commission has obtained this unpublished data which show the commuting pattern for each county in the State. Table 15 gives the commuting pattern for Stone County. In the first column, the counties surrounding Stone County are listed. The out-commuting column shows the number of residents of Stone County who work in the surrounding counties. The in-commuting column shows the number of residents of the surrounding counties who work in Stone County. There were 445 residents of Stone County who out-commuted to work in surrounding counties in 1960, and 122 residents of surrounding counties who in-commuted to work in Stone County.

Table 15. Commuting Pattern for Stone County, 1960

Surrounding Counties	Number Out-Commuting	Number In-Commuting
Forest	28	62
George	28	13
Hancock	16	5
Harrison	192	0
Jackson	84	4
Pearl River	32	4
Perry	15	34
All Other	50	0
Total	445	122

Source: Research and Statistics Department, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.

C. Potential Labor Supply

One of the specific objectives of the Smaller Communities Program operation in Stone County was to assist in determining the current and potential manpower resources of the area. The trends in employment, unemployment, and the current labor force have already been discussed. During the course of this program, representatives of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission took 944 applications and administered aptitude tests to 611 applicants in Stone County to determine their occupational skills and potentialities.

Applications for those persons who had insufficient work experience and training to have attained an occupational skill were classified on the basis of aptitude tests, interest check lists, and other criteria, which indicated the skill level of occupations that the applicants were potentially qualified to learn. Occupational titles were assigned on the basis of a coding structure from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (D.O.T.), third edition. The distribution of all occupations for which applications showed potentiality may be found in the following table. It is pointed out that the applicants showed potentiality for performing or learning 2, 810 different jobs, which is an average of nearly three jobs per applicant.

Table 16. All Occupations for Which Applicants Showed Potentiality

Occupational Categories	Applicants				
		White		Non-White	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	320	175	128	7	10
Clerical and Sales	838	192	556	21	69
Service Occupations	343	39	167	9	128
Farming, Fishery, Forestry, etc.	277	190	47	21	19
Processing Occupations	90	34	49	2	5
Machine Trades Occupations	158	126	7	20	5
Bench Work Occupations	203	32	129	5	37
Structural Occupations	281	253	6	22	0
Miscellaneous Occupations	300	209	47	42	2
Total	2, 810	1, 250	1, 136	149	275

Applications for those persons who had work experience and training sufficient to be classified on the basis of the skill they had attained were given occupational titles in accordance with the same coding structure from the Dictionary of Occupational Titles used to indicate potentialities. Table 17 gives the distribution of principal occupations for which applicants showed skill development and greatest potentiality. The principal occupation is the one for which an applicant is considered to be best qualified to perform.

Table 17. Principal Occupations for Which Applicants Showed Skill Development and Greatest Potentiality

Occupational Categories	Applicants				
		White		Non-White	
	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	145	81	57	3	4
Clerical and Sales	231	39	162	10	20
Service Occupations	146	15	66	2	63
Farming, Fishery, Forestry, etc.	76	48	13	10	5
Processing Occupations	31	8	19	0	4
Machine Trades Occupations	60	43	2	12	3
Bench Work Occupations	68	12	46	1	9
Structural Occupations	86	76	2	8	0
Miscellaneous Occupations	101	72	14	14	1
Total	944	394	381	60	109

Other information also gives some indication of the size of the potential labor supply. An analysis of U. S. Census data for 1960 shows that there were 928 males and 1,754 females, 14 years old and over, who were not in the labor force. Of course, it is recognized that a good portion of these are not in the potential labor supply because: (1) 465 males and 312 females were enrolled in school; (2) 443 females had small children at home to care for; (3) 248 males and 355 females were 65 years old and over, which in most instances would preclude them from the labor force; and (4) 8 males were inmates of an institution. However, there were 207 males and 644 females between the ages of 14 and 65 years who potentially could become a part of the labor force if suitable employment were available. Assuming that only one-half of these were to enter the labor market, it would raise the potential labor supply to 2,603 as compared with a labor force of 2,178 as reported in 1960 Census data. No doubt the potential labor supply is even higher in 1969, because of the estimated increase in population of 647 people between 1960 and mid-1966.

III. STONE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC PATTERN

A. Income[1]

Family income as a measure of economic growth reflects very favorable trends for Stone County during the decade 1949 to 1959. Nevertheless, the median family income of $3,058 reported for 1959 was above the Mississippi average of $2,884, but significantly below the U. S. average of $5,657.

The median family income in Stone County increased 94 per cent from $1,576 in 1949 to $3,058 in 1959. This compared to a 141 per cent increase for State from $1,198 to $2,884 in 1959. During the same period the U. S. average increased only 83 per cent from $3,083 to $5,657.

In other words, the median family income in Stone County showed marked improvement during the decade, but did not increase as much proportionately as did the State average. However, it was 51 per cent of the National average in 1949 as compared with 54 per cent in 1959.

There were 813 families with income of less than $3,000 in Stone County in 1959. This represented 49 per cent of all the families in the county, as compared with the State average of 52 per cent and the U. S. average of about 21 per cent. In 1949, there were 1,180 families with income of less than $3,000 in Stone County, or more than 78 per cent of all the families in the county. On the other hand, in 1959 there were 412 families, or 25 per cent of all the families in the county, who had income of $5,000 or more, as compared with only 80 families in 1949. Of this number, 53 families had income above $10,000 in 1959, as compared with only 15 in 1949.

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[1] Extension Economist, Mississippi State University, State College, Mississippi.

Table 18. Family Income, Stone County, 1949-1959

Income Level	Number of Families		% Change 1949-1959
	1949	1959	
All Families	1,505	1,657	10.1
Under $1,000	465	228	-51.0
$1,000 - $1,999	455	271	-40.4
$2,000 - $2,999	260	314	20.8
$3,000 - $3,999	140	268	91.4
$4,000 - $4,999	50	164	228.0
$5,000 - $5,999	25	173	592.0
$6,000 - $6,999	15	91	506.7
$7,000 - $7,999	25	35	280.0
$8,000 - $8,999		36	
$9,000 - $9,999		24	
$10,000 - $14,999	15	40	253.3
$15,000 - $24,999		9	
$25,000 and Over		4	
Median Family Income	$1,576	$3,058	94.0

Source: U. S. Census of Population, Mississippi.

The median personal income for men in Stone County in 1959 was $1,954, as compared with $1,807 for Mississippi and $4,103 for the United States. There were 2,112 men who reported personal income in the county in 1959.

The median personal income for women in Stone County in 1959 was $668, as compared with $656 for Mississippi and $1,368 for the United States. There were 1,156 women who reported personal income in the county in 1969.

B. Volume of Sales

The volume of sales in Stone County for the calendar year 1968, according to Mississippi State Tax Commission records, was: retail sales $11,474,155; wholesale sales

$1, 652, 456; and natural resources and miscellaneous services $743, 691. A breakdown of the volume of sales by business groups is shown in the following table.

Table 19. Volume of Sales, Stone County, 1968

Business Groups	Number Outlets	Amount of Sales
Retail Sales:		
Automotive	44	$ 4, 197, 188
Food and Drink	43	2, 229, 085
Apparel and General Merchandise	14	1, 520, 756
Contractors, Lumber and Building Material	26	2, 450, 303
Furniture and Fixtures	7	238, 068
Miscellaneous Retail	18	838, 755
Total Retail Sales	152	11, 474, 155
Natural Resources	3	270, 190
Miscellaneous Services	28	473, 501
Total Other Than Wholesale	183	12, 217, 846
Wholesale Sales	21	1, 652, 456
County Total	204	$13, 870, 302

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.

Types of retail trade outlets include automobile dealers, service stations, garages, grocery stores, restaurants, apparel shops, shoe stores, variety stores, hardware and farm implement dealers, contractors, lumber and building supply houses, furniture and appliance dealers, farm supply stores, drug stores, jewelry stores, feed mills, etc. These outlets are mostly located in Wiggins, the only incorporated town in the county. There are a few general merchandise stores, service stations, etc., located at Bond, McHenry, Perkinston, and other communities scattered throughout the county.

Miscellaneous and service outlets include barber shops, beauty shops, motels, hotels, dry cleaning plants, laundries, health and medical services, and the like. Natural resources consist mostly of sand and gravel. Wholesale trade activities are, for the most part, carried on as an adjunct to normal retail operations. Wholesale distributors of gasoline, oil, diesel fuel, liquified petroleum (LP) products, auto parts and accessories, lumber, etc., are available in the county. Other wholesale services are provided in the county by distributors in Hattiesburg, Biloxi, Gulfport and other cities in the area.

C. Financial Institutions

Banks and other financial institutions and agencies are considered to be very important assets to the welfare of the citizens of Stone County. Without these sources of exchange and credit, progress in business and agriculture would be greatly hampered.

Banks

The Bank of Wiggins, located on the corner of Pine Street and old U. S. Highway 49 in the downtown area, is the only chartered bank in Stone County. It was established in 1916 and has enjoyed a healthy growth, especially during the past ten years when deposits increased from $3,075.450 in 1959 to $7,334,264 in June of 1969. It currently serves about 2,500 customers, and pays 4% interest on savings accounts and 5% interest on certificates of deposit in the amount of $5,000 or more for a period of one year.

Ample funds are available for expansion when and if necessary. Entire bookkeeping equipment has been updated in the past three years. Savings accounts are now on computer and demand deposit accounts are presently being numbered, with probability of placing them and installment loans on computer within the next twelve months. The bank building is modern, having been completed in 1963, and is adequate for present needs; however, an adjoining lot has just been purchased in anticipation of future expansion. A condensed financial statement follows.

BANK OF WIGGINS
April 30, 1969

RESOURCES:

Cash on Hand and in Banks	$ 705,115.26	
Federal Funds Sold, etc.	500,000.00	
U. S. Securities	1,538,798.75	
U. S. Agency Securities	100,000.00	
State, County, and Municipal Bonds	1,652,132.30	$4,496,046.31
Loans		3,183,242.95
Banking House and Equipment		80,000.00
Total		$7,759,289.26

LIABILITIES:

Capital Stock	$ 120,000.00	
Surplus	380,000.00	$ 500,000.00
Undivided Profits		137,013.52
Reserves on Loans and Securities		98,303.67
Deposits		6,959,899.05
Other Liabilities		64,073.02
Total		$7,759,289.26

Savings and Loan Associations

Stone Savings and Loan Association, a stock company, was organized in 1963. It has grown rapidly and now has 475 savings accounts, and pays 5.5 per cent interest on shares. The office is located at 143 First Street, S.E., in Wiggins. The latest statement of financial condition follows.

STONE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION
December 31, 1968

ASSETS

Cash on Hand and in Banks	$ 74,237.27
Funds on Deposit in Other S. & L. Associations	40,000.00
Investments	9,845.00
First Mortgage Loans on Homes	652,927.99
First Mortgage Loans on Other Property	180,461.62
Other Loans	37,729.78
Real Estate Owned	100.00
Fixed Assets	8,324.80
Total	$1,003,626.46

LIABILITIES, CAPITAL, AND RESERVES

Liabilities:	
Savings Share Accounts	$ 913,300.72
Notes and Mortgages Payable	2,075.45
Loans in Process	14,259.01
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	2,321.78
Deferred Credits to Future Operations	2,522.05
Total Liabilities	$ 934,479.01
Capital, Surplus and Reserves:	
General Reserves	$ 1,533.38
Capital Stock	50,000.00
Capital or Contributed Surplus, Paid In	4,220.00
Retained Earnings (Undivided Profits)	13,394.07
Total Capital, Surplus and Reserves	$ 69,147.45
Total Liabilities, Capital, and Reserves	$1,003,626.46

Farmers Home Administration

The Farmers Home Administration is an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture which serves eligible farmers and rural groups with credit and needed technical help on farm and money management problems. A full-time office is maintained in the Blass Building on Second Street in Wiggins.

Loans are generally made only to applicants who are unable to obtain adequate credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms. However, many other farm families and rural groups receive credit counseling from the County F.H.A. Supervisor which enables them to make better use of the private and cooperative loans available to them. The main purpose of F.H.A. loans, through the years, has been to assit eligible farmers, who are operators of not larger than family-size farms, carry on sound and successful farming operations through the extension of credit and supervisory assistance. This usually includes mainly operating loans and farm ownership loans. Other loans can be made to operators of farms that are larger than family-size. With the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, several new types of loans were authorized for the F.H.A. to administer.

The following types of loans are available:

1. Operating Loans are made to eligible operators of not larger than family-size farms to assist them in making improved use of their land and labor resources. Funds may be advanced to pay for equipment, livestock, feed, seed, fertilizer, other farm and home operating needs; to refinance chattel debts; provide operating credit to fish farmers; carry out forestry practices; and develop income-producing recreation enterprises. Each loan is scheduled for repayment in accordance with the borrower's ability to repay over a period not exceeding 7 years at 5.5 per cent interst, except forestry loans which bear an interest rate of 3 per cent, with security on chattels and crops.

2. Farm Ownership Loans are made to eligible farm operators of not larger than family farms. Loans are made primarily to enlarge, improve, and buy farms, and to refinance debts. Loans may also be made to these farmers to produce trees and other forest products, produce fish under controlled conditions, and to finance recreational enterprises which will supplement their farm income. Loans may be made for a period not to exceed 40 years, at 5 per cent interst, secured by a mortgage on the farm, or chattels, or other suitable security.

3. Rural Housing Loans. The Farmers Home Administration under provisions in the Housing Act of 1949, as amended, makes and insures rural housing loans. Loans are made to eligible applicants in rural areas (places with population of not more than 5,500 which are rural in character and not closely associated with an urban area) to buy, build or im-

prove dwellings and other essential farm buildings and related facilities. Rural housing loans are made only to applicants who are unable to obtain the credit they need from private lenders. Most rural housing loans are made to finance housing which is modest in size, cost and design. The repayment period cannot exceed 33 years at an interest rate of 5 1/8 per cent for applicants with low or moderate income. Applicants with above moderate income are required to pay 8 per cent interest, and applicants who suffer a disaster may obtain a 3 per cent loan. Applications are made in county offices serving the area where the housing will be located.

The Farmers Home Administration, under Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949, makes insured loans to provide rental housing in rural areas for senior citizens, 62 years of age or older, and other rural residents. The basic objective is to provide for rural residents economically designed and constructed housing and related facilities.

These loans may be made to individuals or organizations which would include partnerships, profit and nonprofit corporations. All loans are insured with a maximum loan limit of $300,000. Borrowers pay 5 1/8 per cent interest with a maximum repayment period of 50 years.

4. Water Development and Soil Conservation Loans are made to eligible groups of farmers, ranchers, and rural residents to develop rural community water supply systems, drain farm land, provide irrigation systems, and carry out soil conservation measures. Loans may also be made for shifts in land use to develop recreational facilities, grazing areas, and forest lands. Loans may be repaid over a period not to exceed 40 years at an interest rate of 4.75 or 5 per cent depending on the type of loan.

5. Watershed Loans may be made to local organizations to help finance projects that protect and develop land and water resources in small watersheds. Loans are made only under watershed plans approved by the Soil Conservation Service.

Eligible local organizations include soil conservation districts, irrigation districts, drainage districts, flood prevention and control districts, nonprofit irrigation or reservoir companies, mutual water companies, and similar organizations.

Loan funds may be used to pay the applicant's share of the cost of flood control dams and reservoirs, water supply reservoirs, diversion dams, irrigation canals, drainage facilities, recreation facilities, easements, and similar purposes.

Watershed loans are made payable over periods up to 50 years. The interest rate for loans made in fiscal year 1969-70 is 3.256 per cent; however, the rate varies slightly from year to year.

6. Emergency Loans are made to eligible farmers in designated areas where natural disasters such as floods and droughts have brought about a temporary need for credit not available from other sources. Loan funds may be used for items needed to maintain normal operations, but may not be used to refinance debts or compensate applicants for their losses. The interest rate is 3 per cent and the loans are usually repayable in one year, but never longer than 20 years depending upon the purpose for which funds are advanced.

7. Opportunity Loans - Under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, F.H.A. makes loans to low-income farm and nonfarm rural families who need small amounts of capital to improve their earnings, but are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms. Farm families may use loan funds to buy livestock, farm equipment, and

to pay for such items as repair of essential buildings, fencing, drainage, land clearing, feed, seed, fertilizer, tractor fuel, chemicals, and other essential operating expenses.

Farm families and nonfarm families living in the country or in small towns of not more than 2, 500 population may use loan funds for nonagricultural purposes, such as: financing small businesses, trades or services, including a wide variety of income-producing activities. The total amount loaned to any one family may not exceed $3, 500. The maximum term is 15 years and the interest rate if 4 1/8 per cent. Loans will generally be secured by a promissory note and a loan agreement.

9. Loans to Cooperatives - Under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, F.H.A. makes loans to cooperatives serving rural families with low incomes. Loan funds may be used to finance local cooperative associations which provide services, supplies, or facilities not otherwise available and which will serve to raise the income and living standards of low-income rural families. Eligible applicants may obtain loans to : (1) process products grown on members' farms; (2) assemble, market, and transport home-made handicraft items such as baskets, brooms, ceramics, and decorative items; (3) purchase essential machinery and equipment such as combines, feedmixers, tractors, cotton pickers, trucks, etc.; (4) provide services needed to market agricultural products; (5) purchase for members essential farm and operating items; (6) purchase land and obtain buildings and equipment for the cooperative to fulfill its function; (7) pay costs of organizing the cooperatives; and (8) refinance certain debts.

A summary of the loans outstanding in Stone County, by type and amount, as of June 30, 1969, is shown in Table 20.

Table 20. Outstanding F.H.A. Loans, Stone County, June 30, 1969

Type of Loan	Number of Loans	Amount of Loans
Rural Housing	187	$1,371,254
Farm Ownership		
Water Development (Associations)	3	262,273
Economic Opportunity	15	22,200
Operating	45	147,300
Total	250	$1,803,027

Source: Farmers Home Administration, State Office, Jackson, Mississippi.

The Federal Land Bank

The Federal Land Bank Association of Hattiesburg helps serve the financial needs of farmers in Stone County on an itinerant basis. Residents of the county who are interested in obtaining a loan contact the Hattiesburg office by telephone or mail and an appointment is made for a F.L.B. representative to come to Stone County to discuss the matter. Loans may be made to buy land, livestock, farm equipment, etc., and for general farm improvement including homes and other farm buildings. All loans are first mortgage real estate loans and are usually repayable in 20 years, with a maximum of 35 years, at 5.5 per cent interest. The mobile team was unable to get information from the Hattiesburg office on the number and amount of the loans currently outstanding in Stone County.

Production Credit Association

The Hattiesburg Production Credit Association (P.C.A.) helps serve the short-term agricultural credit needs of farmers in Stone County. The home office is located at 1711 Hardy Street in Hattiesburg and local farmers have to go to the main office to make application for a loan because there is not enough business in Stone County to justify a branch office.

The P.C.A. makes both operating and capital loans, with a maximum seven-year repayment plan on certain capital loans. Operating, or crop loans, are made for one year, but may be renewable each year under certain conditions for a maximum of five years. The interest rate on all loans is 6.75 per cent. The Hattiesburg P.C.A. office failed to respond to inquiries regarding the number and amount of loans currently outstanding in Stone County.

Small Business Administration

The Small Business Administration has made 18 regular business loans in the total amount of $844, 400 since April, 1958, to small business firms in Stone County. In addition to these regular business loans, a Development Company Loan in the amount of $314, 000, and a disaster loan in the amount of $52, 000 was approved. Seven of the regular business loans in the amount of $216, 587 and the Development Company Loan in the amount of $301, 703 were still being serviced as of May 28, 1969.

These loans were made to varied types of small business firms such as, in the majority of cases, lumber dealers and manufacturers of lumber, grocery store, machine shop, mercantile, biological supply, car dealers, loggers and manufacture of surgical appliances and supplies. The amounts of individual business loans range from $3, 500 to $150, 000. Twelve of these loans were participated in by banks in that area, while only six were direct loans. The firms helped by the Small Business Administration are located throughout the county in the towns of Bond, Wiggins, and Perkinston.

The Jackson Regional Office of the Small Business Administration serves this area through a circuit ride to Gulfport, Mississippi, every first and third Thursday of each month. One of the Loan Officers is at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce building from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. to answer any questions concerning assistance to small businesses.

D. Utility Usage

Mississippi Power Company serves the town of Wiggins and the villages of Bond, McHenry, and Perkinston, as well as rural residents living along U. S. Highway 49 through the county. Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association serves the remainder of Stone County which is more than 90 per cent of the area. The usage of electricity per customer has almost doubled during the last ten years. The average monthly consumption of electricity by residential users has increased from about 300 KWH to about 600 KWH. This is due to an increase in the number of electrical appliances in the homes and on the farms, such as: washing machines, dryers, deep freezers, TV sets, ranges, water pumps, and water heaters. There are approximately 250 all-electric homes in the county.

United Gas Corporation provides natural gas service for Wiggins and Perkinston and rural residents between these towns. It serves approximately 900 customers including 143 commercial or industrial users. Natural gas service has been available there since 1949.

There are two distributors of liquified petroleum (LP) products -- propane and butane gas -- in Wiggins that serve about 1,000 rural homes and farms in the areas which do not have natural gas service. Distributors from towns in adjoining counties most likely serve some customers in Stone County within their trade areas.

South Central Bell Telephone Company serves all of Stone County, providing rather intensive coverage serving about 1,800 subscribers through the Wiggins Exchange. Hence, all calls within the county are toll-free.

It is estimated that between 3,500 and 4,000 people, or approximately half of the population of the county, are served by the municipal and cooperative water systems in Bond, McHenry, Perkinston, Wiggins and New Zion communities. The average monthly usage of water per residential customer is about 4,000 gallons.

E. Home Ownership

According to records in Stone County Tax Assessor's office, approximately 1,500 home owners applied for homestead tax exemption during the 1969 filing period with about 300 failing to qualify. The trend in home building has been upward in recent years; many new beautiful brick homes have been built throughout the county. About one-third of the occupied dwelling units have been built since 1950.

Census data in 1960 showed that out of a total of 1,867 occupied housing units there were 1,400 owner occupied. This represented 75 per cent home ownership as compared with the State average of 58 per cent. Nearly one-half of all the occupied housing units in the county were sound and contained all plumbing facilities -- hot and cold running water, a flush toilet, and a bath tub or shower for exclusive use of the occupants. No doubt this situation is even better now because of the new homes that have been built and the rural cooperative water systems that have been constructed since 1960.

Wiggins is the only area in the county where building permits are required and no building codes are in force. There is a public housing project in Wiggins, consisting of 15 units, for low-income families.

F. Families With Automobiles

There were 3, 270 private passenger automobiles registered during the 1968 tag year according to records in the offices of the Stone County Sheriff and the State Motor Vehicle Comptroller. This was an average of one automobile for each 2.1 persons of the total population. Thus, it is very evident that a majority of the families in the county have more than one automobile because the 1960 Census showed a total of 1, 657 families and the population is estimated to have increased only 647 persons between 1960 and mid-1966. During the 1968 tag year there were 1, 100 private carrier pickups registered and these serve as a means of family transportation as well as a means of hauling farm products, farm supplies, and other purposes.

G. Postal Receipts

There are four U. S. Post Offices in Stone County. Bond is a Fourth Class office with one rural route and had $49, 687.48 postal receipts in 1968. McHenry is also a Fourth Class office, but has no rural routes, and had $3, 238.72 postal receipts in 1968. Perkinston is a Third Class office with two rural routes and had $14, 565.96 postal receipts in 1968. Wiggins is a Second Class office with three rural routes and had $53, 703.76 postal receipts in 1968.

H. Living Costs [1/]

Living costs in Stone County compare favorably with those of other rural areas of the State. Wiggins, the county seat and only incorporated town in the county, is located in the north central area of the county. It had a population of 1, 591 in 1960. Other unincorporated

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1/ Extension Economics Department, Misssissippi State University, State College, Mississippi.

villages include Bond in the extreme northern end of the county, Perkinston near the center of the county, and McHenry located near the southern boundary. All towns and villages are located on U. S. Highway 49.

Shopping centers outside the county include Hattiesburg - 40 miles north, Gulfport - 34 miles south, Mobile, Alabama - 75 miles southeast, New Orleans, Louisiana - 100 miles southwest, and Jackson - 125 miles northwest. Hattiesburg and the Gulf Coast cities of Gulfport and Biloxi serve as major shopping areas for many Stone County citizens.

Food costs in Wiggins, where most food items are bought, are generally considered comparable to those of other areas across South Mississippi. Wiggins has several supermarkets most of which are relatively small but provide a wide selection of food items throughout the year. Specialty items would be limited in Wiggins and the smaller villages, but readily available in Hattiesburg or in the Gulf Coast area.

Wiggins has several clothing stores, but they are oriented more toward women's clothes in which there is a good selection for a small town. Children's and men's clothing are not as abundant, nor is there as wide a selection from which to choose. Prices of clothing are considered in line with other comparable rural areas. Some families go to the out-of-county shopping centers of Gulfport, Hattiesburg, New Orleans or Mobile for major clothing purchases.

Desirable rental property is very limited. When available, apartments and houses rent from $60 to more than $125 per month, depending on desirability and demand at the time.

Desirable building lots are available with electricity, natural gas, city water and sewerage services in Wiggins. Costs of such lots vary from $1,500 to $4,000 depending on desirability and size. There are no real estate developers, however, competent builders are generally available to build homes as desired. Building materials are available at comparable prices.

Larger tracts of land outside city limits are available at a cost of $200 per acre and up, depending on location and demand for such land at time of sale.

Wiggins has an ample municipal water system that serves all of the corporate limits, and cooperative water systems serve the villages of Bond, McHenry, and the New Zion Community. In other areas private pressure water systems can be installed for $700 to $1,000 depending on kind of system and depth of well.

Most of the nationally known brands of appliances are available within Stone County. When such are purchased locally, service is considered fairly good. However, service on appliances bought outside the county is not always satisfactory. As with other rural areas of the South, the cost of appliances in the smaller towns is usually slightly higher than in large shopping centers. Selection of furniture items is somewhat limited in Wiggins. Many families go to out-of-county shopping centers for major furniture purchases.

Electricity is available throughout the county and at prices in line with other rural areas of South Mississippi. Rural Electric Cooperatives serve the rural areas generally. Mississippi Power Company serves Bond, McHenry, Perkinston, and Wiggins. Natural gas is available at comparable prices in Wiggins and Perkinston.

South Central Bell Telephone Company provides comprehensive coverage of the entire county at reasonable rates.

General home and automobile maintenance services are considered fairly good and at reasonable prices. Maintenance on air conditioners and other somewhat complicated machines is not always fully satisfactory.

Medical and dental services are considered fairly good and at prices comparable to other rural areas. There is thought to be some shortage in dental service available due to possible lack of sufficient dentists for the population. County health service is considered good. Special medical cases are usually referred to out-of-county centers where specialists are available.

Fishing, hunting, and camping recreation facilities are in abundance. A private cooperative facility is now being organized to provide golfing, swimming, and other recreation facilities.

I. Agricultural Situation [1]

Stone County is favorable for agriculture in many respects; yet, farming seems to be on a decline. It has a long growing season, being near the Gulf Coast, 62 inches average annual rainfall, and predominantly sandy loams soils that are easy to cultivate and respond well to fertilizer. There are several rather large areas of very fertile upland soils in addition to the bottom lands. Farm income is low; the value of all farm products in 1964 being only $2,506 per farm, which is only 38 per cent of the State average of $6,634.

Stone County has a total land area of 286,720 acres, of which only 67,270 acres, or 23.5 per cent, was in farms according to the 1964 Census of Agriculture. Only four other counties in the State have a smaller percentage of their total land area in farms. Between 1954 and 1964 the number of farms decreased from 620 to 437, or nearly 30 per cent.

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[1] County Agent, Cooperative Extension Service, Wiggins, Mississippi.

However, during the same period the average size of farms increased from 110.8 acres to 153.9 acres, or nearly 39 per cent. The average value of land and buildings per farm increased from $7,675 to $23,851, and per acre from $68.21 to $158.43. The value of farm land has continued to increase and currently farm land, when available, sells from $150 per acre on gravel roads to $400 or more on paved highways.

Significant changes in the pattern of agriculture have occurred in recent years. See Table 21. The land area in farms decreased about 1,400 acres, cropland harvested decreased nearly 3,000 acres, woodland decreased more than 2,000 acres, and total land pasture decreased nearly 5,000 acres, but open pasture land increased more than 2,000 acres.

Table 21. Land Use Pattern, Stone County, 1954-1964

Item	1954	1960	1964
Number of Farms	620	485	437
Land In Farms (Acres)	68,698	71,906	67,270
Average Size of Farms (Acres)	110.8	148.3	153.9
Average Value of Land and Buildings Per Farm	$7,675	$13,175	$23,851
Average Value of Land and Buildings Per Acre	$68.21	$114.31	$158.43
Cropland Harvested (Acres)	11,813	10,816	8,839
Cropland Pastured (Acres)	5,918	6,777	5,980
Cropland Not Harvested and Not Pastured (Acres)	1,805	1,634	3,357
Total Cropland (Acres)	19,536	19,227	18,176
Woodland Pastured (Acres)	24,771	22,503	18,278
Woodland Not Pastured (Acres)	17,672	25,072	21,933
Total Woodland (Acres)	42,443	47,575	40,211
Improved Pasture (Acres)	4,379	2,380	5,137
Other Pasture, Not Cropland or Woodland (Acres)	5,128	3,097	6,720
Total Land Pastured (Acres)	35,817	32,377	30,978
Other Land (House Lots, Roads, Wasteland, etc.)	1,591	2,007	2,086

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, Mississippi.

Many of the farms in Stone County are small -- too small to be economical operating units unless they are specialized as in horticultural crops. The 1964 Census of Agriculture showed that there were 157 farms of less than 50 acres in size, which was 36 per cent of all farms in the county, and there were 95 farms of from 50 to 99 acres in size. In 1964, there was 25.8 per cent of the farms of 100 to 219 acres in size; 11.6 per cent of 220 to 499 acres in size; and nearly 5 per cent were 500 acres or more.

There were only 160 commercial farms, or just 37 per cent of the total farms in the county, and 277 part-time or part-retirement farms with 104 farm operators being 65 years old and over. Thus, there are many farmers who must supplement their income with off-the-farm work. There were 231 farm operators who reported working off their farms for 100 or more days in 1964. There were 413 farm farmilies who reported an aggregate income of $1,582,358 from sources other than their farms. Whereas, the value of all farm products sold in the county amounted to only $1,095,202.

Table 22. Types of Farms, Stone County, 1954-1964

Types	1954	1959	1964
Cotton Farms	35	5	2
Cash-Grain Farms	0	0	3
Other Field Crop Farms	5	5	0
Vegetable Farms	0	0	2
Fruit and Nut Farms	0	2	9
Poultry Farms	25	10	9
Dairy Farms	28	36	19
Livestock Other Than Poultry and Dairy	42	52	69
General Farms	32	1	20
Miscellaneous and Unclassified Farms	464	370	304

Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, Mississippi.

Changes in the type of farming have also taken place in recent years. For instance, cotton has entirely disappeared from the scene. Cash-grain type farms have emerged and are increasing rapidly. Poultry farms decreased 64 per cent during the decade, and dariy farms decreased 32 per cent. Indicative of the major change in the type of farming from row crops to livestock and grassland farming is the increase in the number of beef cattle farms from 42 to 69. Traditionally a big majority of the farms in Stone County have been categorized as miscellaneous and unclassified because of the diversity of cash income enterprises.

The principal cash income crops grown are soybeans, corn, horticultural crops -- vegetables, fruit and nuts. Hay and other forage crops are supporting enterprises for the livestock industry. The acreage of corn has been steadily decreasing for a number of years, dropping from 4,300 acres in 1955 to 1,500 acres in 1968; yet, the yield per acre has increased from about 20 bushels to nearly 40 bushels per acre. There were 53 farms reporting sales of 14,052 bushels of corn in 1964. Soybeans is a relatively new cash crop, there being only three farms with 216 acres producing 5,654 bushels in 1964; whereas, in 1968 there were 2,700 acres in the county yielding 26 bushels per acre with a total production of 70,200 bushels, making it the leading cash crop. The County Agent expects further expansion of this enterprise.

In 1964, there were 28 farms with 154 acres of commercial vegetables from which sales of $18,807 were reported. Vegetables sold included mainly watermelons, cucumbers, peppers, peas, tomatoes and turnip greens. One of the major industries in Wiggins is the Brown-Miller Pickle Company which contracts for cucumber production in all the surrounding counties.

There were 157 farms reporting as having 7,188 pecan trees on about 720 acres which produced 106,363 pounds of pecans in 1964. The majority of these trees range between 20 and 40 years of age, but the improved varieties are susceptible to pecan scab and leaf spot which cause production to be highly variable from year to year.

In 1959, there were 76 tung nut farms with 276,483 trees on approximately 4,000 acres which produced 1,950,980 pounds of nuts with sales amounting to about $75,000. But, by 1964, there were only 66 tung nut farms with 76,200 trees on about 1,100 acres which produced 1,439,951 pounds of nuts valued at approximately $57,000. The low price of tung oil, lack of good management, unfavorable weather conditions, and improper site selection have caused nearly 3,000 acres of tung trees to be abandoned during the past ten years.

There were three highly specialized farms producing nursery and greenhouse products reporting sales of $155,556 in 1964. Products produced included bulbs, flowers, and plants. Campbell Soup Company has been producing tomato plants in the Big Level Community for the past ten years. It seeds about 300 acres each spring and produces from 25 to 30 million plants which are shipped to their growers over the country. It employs five men on a permanent basis and provides seasonal work for as many as 500 persons during the peak pulling and shipping season. This operation puts about $140,000 annually into the local economy for labor, fuel, equipment, fertilizer, insecticides and fungicides.

The total value of all crops sold in Stone County in 1964 was only $397,744, or 36 per cent of the farm income.

Table 23. Trends in Livestock Enterprises, Stone County, 1955-1969

Livestock on Farms, January 1	1955	1960	1965	1969
All Cattle and Calves	11,000	9,100	11,900	11,800
Cows 2 Yrs. Old and Over, Kept for Milk	2,550	1,600	1,100	700
Other Cattle	8,450	7,500	10,800	11,100
Hogs and Pigs of All Ages	5,200	6,000	6,500	4,300

Source: Mississippi Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, Jackson, Mississippi.

The most significant changes in the trends of livestock enterprises have been the gradual increase in the number of beef cattle and the drastic decrease in dairy cattle. The number of beef cattle on farms increased from 8,450 to 11,100 between 1955 and 1969, an increase of 31 per cent. Moreover, the quality of beef cattle has improved to a far greater degree during this period. The change has been from largely native piney woods cows to high-grade and registered herds of the leading beef breeds. Accompanying this change, pastures have changed from largely open woodland range to improved permanent type pasture with a combination of grasses and legumes. In 1964, there were 306 farms reporting sales of 3,561 cattle and calves for $227,011 making it the largest single source of farm income.

The number of dairy farms has sharply decreased, but not as much as the number of dairy cows. The number of Grade-A dairies decreased from 36 in 1960 to 14 in 1967. The smaller dairies went out of business and the larger dairies increased the size of their herds slightly. However, improved management practices -- breeding, feeding, etc. -- have resulted in much higher milk production per cow. In 1964, there were 23 farms reporting sales of 3,071,094 pounds of milk for $170,739 as compared with 51 farms selling 3,467,920 pounds of milk for $180,765 in 1959.

The swine enterprise has probably been the most steady enterprise of the agriculture in the county. Of course, the number of hogs on farms fluctuates more than most other livestock enterprises from year to year because of the sensitivity to market conditions and the fact that the life cycle in hog production is relatively short allowing for adjustment in numbers in a short time. There are about 20 commercial hog farms in the county and several pure-bred breeding herds. The quality of market hogs has greatly improved in recent years, going to the meat-type more and more. Since there is not an auction market in Stone

County, most of the hogs are sold at auction barns in Hattiesburg and Gulfport. Some are sold locally to two small slaughtering and processing plants. Hog producers participate in area feeder pig sales at Lucedale and Poplarville. There were 84 farms reporting sales of 4,140 hogs and pigs for $114,902 in 1964.

The poultry enterprise is not included in Table 23, mainly due to the complexity of its operations. However, the enterprise in Stone County consists mainly of the production of market eggs, with about 15 large commercial producers and about twice that many larger back yard flocks. The larger farms produce market eggs under contract with the Pearl River County Co-op wherein the farmer furnishes the houses, equipment, and labor, and the Co-op furnishes the hens and the feed and does the grading and marketing; the farmer receiving a given per cent of the gross sales. There were 42 farms reporting sales of 19,871 chickens, mostly hens, and 376,500 dozen eggs in 1964 for $163,771.

The total value of all livestock and livestock products sold in 1964 was $690,960.

The total value of all farm products sold in 1964 was $1,095,202, averaging $2,506 per farm, as compared with the State average of $6,634 per farm.

J. Present Industrial Situation

Stone County has attained only a small degree of industrial development during the past ten to fifteen years, and a great need exists for more industrial job opportunities since nearly 450 residents commute to work daily in adjoining counties. Wood using industries -- sawmills, planer mills, wood treating plants, veneer mills, naval stores, pulpwood yards, and logging -- are located throughout the county and provide more employment than any other industry, averaging 250 to 300 employees. This is as would be expected since a big majority of the land in the county is in commercial forest. Brown - Miller Pickle Company is one of the oldest manufacturing firms and employs an average of about 235 people. The garment manufacturing industry employs an average of about 75 people. Other smaller industries such as feed mills, printing plants, etc., employ fewer people but all contribute to the present industrial situation. Also, retail and wholesale trade, government, financial institutions, and service industries provide a very important part of the total employment affecting the economy of the county.

During the course of the operation of the Smaller Communities Program in Stone County, International Paper Company announced that it will build a $10,000,000 wood products manufacturing center at Wiggins. The fully integrated complex will include a plywood plant, a stud mill, a chipping plant, and a wood preserving plant, to achieve total wood utilization. Completion of the new facility is scheduled for mid-1970. It will provide direct employment for approximately 300 people, and create employment for an additional 300 people in the woods.

In an effort to determine the impact of industrial and business employment -- the number of people employed and the total annual wages or payroll -- on the economy of Stone County, it was decided that the most reliable information available was the records of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission. However, it should be noted that the data used here do not represent total employment by all industry and business firms in the county; they represent only employment covered by the Mississippi Employment Security Law. Generally, employers of four or more workers for 20 weeks in the current or preceding calendar year are covered under the law.

Certain groups, notably agricultural workers, domestic servants in private homes, railroad employees, casual workers not in the usual course of an employment unit's trade or business, and employees of religious or charitable institutions are not covered under the Mississippi Law. Also, employees of state and local governments are not covered. Data for the exempt industries and businesses just mentioned, and for small-firm employees who failed to elect coverage are not included in Table 24.

Table 24. Employment Covered by Mississippi Employment Security Law, Stone County, 1968

Business or Industry Group	Number Establishments	Average Number Employees	Total Annual Wages
Mining	2	12.7	$ 80,000
Contract Construction	3	33.6	103,000
Manufacturing:			
Lumber and Wood Products	11	250.2	1,326,000
Total Manufacturing	15	642.5	2,870,000
Transportation, Communication, etc.	7	45.7	318,000
Wholesale and Retail Trade:			
Retail General Merchandise	3	48.6	154,000
Food Stores	2	22.2	57,000
Auto Dealers and Service Stations	5	44.0	244,000
Eating and Drinking Places	4	35.3	56,000
Total Trade	18	175.2	630,000
Services:			
Medical and Other Health Services	2	18.9	64,000
Total Services	4	32.2	123,000
County Total	51	964.2	$4,265,000

Source: Research and Statistics Department, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.

A considerable number of people who live in Stone County are employed in industry and business outside the county (see page 34), and are reported to the Mississippi Employment Security Commission on the basis of the location of employment. Hence, these people and their annual wages are not shown in the compilation used here.

73

Employment is reported by industry groups or divisions. The mining group consists primarily of sand and gravel operations. The contract construction group includes general building contractors and special trade contractors such as plumbing, electrical, etc. The manufacturing group includes logging camps and contractors, sawmills, planer mills, veneer mills, naval stores, chipping plants, wood preserving plants, pickle plants, and garment plants. The trade group includes wholesale and retail activities in building materials, farm equipment, department stores, general merchandise stores, grocery stores, automobile dealers and service stations, eating and drinking places, and miscellaneous retail stores. The transportation and communications group includes trucking and warehousing, telephone and telegraph communication, radio broadcasting, electric-gas-water and sanitary services. The service group includes hospitals, other health and medical facilities, motels, hotels, dry cleaning plants, beauty shops, barber shops, amusement and recreation services, etc.

A total of 51 business establishments in Stone County reported an average of 964 employees covered by the Mississippi Employment Security Law in 1968, who had total annual wages of $4,265,000. This was an average of $4,424 per employee.

IV. STONE COUNTY'S RESOURCES

A. Manpower Resources

Trends in employment and unemployment, the current labor force, and the potential labor supply were rather fully discussed in Unit II, page 26, of this publication. In summary, there were 3,946 people in the county between the ages of 16 and 65 years, according to the 1960 Census. Persons in this age group constitute the bulk of the Manpower resources of the community. At the same time, there were only about 2,100 people employed, which indicated a considerable surplus of manpower and a definite need for more employment opportunities.

Wage Rates [1]

Information on the occupational wage structure in Stone County is rather limited due to very little industrial development; therefore, as a guide to the prevailing wage rates in this general area, selected occupations and wage ranges for the Gulfport area are used to supplement available information for Stone County. Gulfport is located in ajoining Harrison County about 35 miles south of Wiggins. The Center Office of the Mississippi State Employment Service in Gulfport serves Stone County on an itinerant basis.

Occupation	Wage Range
	Monthly
Civil Engineer	$650 - $1,323
Mechanical Engineer	320 - 1,153
Radio Engineer	180 - 500
Industrial Engineer	400 - 1,463

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[1] Survey of Occupational Wage Structure, Gulfport Area, Research and Statistics Department, Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.

Occupation	Wage Range
	Monthly
Nurse, General Duty	$275 - $1,120
Nurse, Licensed Practical	250 - 799
Pharmacist	300 - 1,041
School Teacher	278 - 644
Accountant	206 - 1,463
Manager, Personnel	400 - 1,020
Manager, Office	300 - 1,200
Production Superintendent	320 - 1,500
	Weekly
Secretary	$42 - $125
Stenographer	45 - 130
Clerk-Typist	45 - 135
Clerk, General Office	48 - 100
Bookkeeper	40 - 175
Cashier	35 - 138
Bookkeeping Machine Operator	64 - 85
Payroll Clerk	64 - 134
Shipping Clerk	64 - 100
Stock Clerk	55 - 150
Telephone Operator	50 - 91
Receptionist	45 - 104
Salesperson, General	40 - 125
Sales Clerk	35 - 75
Grocery Checker	30 - 90
Waitress	25 - 85
Cook	25 - 110
Kitchen Helper	30 - 64
Maid	30 - 65
Laundry Laborer	40 - 99
Presser, Machine	35 - 99
Watchman	40 - 90
Porter	30 - 80
Janitor	40 - 80
	Hourly
Concrete Mixer Operator	$1.60 - $1.75
Shellfish Shucker	1.40 - 1.60
Laborer, General	1.60 - 2.00
Machinist	1.75 - 4.49
Auto Mechanic	1.35 - 4.21
Refrigeration Mechanic	1.50 - 4.28
Maintenance Mechanic	1.40 - 3.35
Sewing Machine Repairman	1.60 - 2.50

Occupation	Wage Range
	Hourly
Variety Saw Operator	$1.65 - $3.00
Veneer Inspector	1.60 - 2.00
Electrical Appliance Repairman	0.87 - 3.57
Cutter, Machine	1.60 - 2.05
Spreader	1.60 - 1.90
Seamstress	0.75 - 2.79
Sewing Machine Operator	1.60 - 1.90
Garment Inspector	1.60 - 1.80
Sheet Metal Worker	1.60 - 4.25
Shipfitter	1.75 - 3.25
Auto Body Repairman	1.50 - 3.50
Welder, Arc	2.00 - 3.96
Electrician	2.12 - 4.70
Painter	1.25 - 4.75
Carpenter	1.40 - 4.00
Bricklayer	3.09 - 4.75
Plumber	1.60 - 4.73
Construction Workers	1.60 - 2.75
Tractor Trailer Driver	1.60 - 3.85
Truck Driver	1.60 - 3.50
Service Station Attendant	1.00 - 2.00
Gherkin Pickler	1.60 - 1.60
Brine Maker	1.60 - 1.75

B. Water Resources [1/]

Ground Water

Stone County is underlain by several geologic formations containing fresh water-bearing sands capable of yielding large quantities of ground water of good quality. The formations dip to the south-southwest and depths necessary to reach a particular sand increase in this direction.

The shallowest water-bearing formation is the Citronelle Formation which is exposed on highlands and divides. Sand and gravel in the Citronelle furnishes most of the domestic

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[1/] Mississippi Board of Water Commissioners, Jackson, Mississippi.

water supplies except in the valleys. The formation thickness probably ranges from around 200 feet in the north to 300 feet or more in the south.

The Citronelle Formation is underlain by fresh water-bearing sands of Miocene age extending to depths of from 1, 400 feet in the north to about 2, 000 feet below mean sea level near the Harrison County line. Most of the municipal and industrial water supplies in the county are obtained from one or more of these sands.

The municipal water supply at Wiggins, until a few years ago, was obtained from two six-inch wells drilled to depths of 200 and 400 feet. The measured yield of the wells is from 320 to 400 gallons per minute and the static water levels range from about 80 to 160 feet below land surface. The water is low in dissolved solids, 16 to 24 parts per million. A new ten-inch well was drilled at Wiggins in 1966 to a depth of 950 feet. An aquifer-performance test made on this well indicates an excellent aquifer at this depth; a potential source for large capacity wells or well fields in the Wiggins area. This well yields 700 gallons per minute and the water temperature is 77° F.

Municipal water storage is provided by an elevated tank of 100, 000 gallons capacity, and a reserve surface tank of the same capacity. The system serves approximately 1, 000 customers, and the average monthly usage per residential customer is about 5, 000 gallons. Pressure in the water mains averages about 60 pounds per square inch. A chemical analysis of the municipal water supply is shown in Table 25. Monthly water rates follow.

Wiggins Water Rate Schedule

$1.75 Minimum	For the First	3,000 Gallons
0.40 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	2,000 Gallons
0.35 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	2,000 Gallons
0.30 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	20,000 Gallons
0.25 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	25,000 Gallons
0.20 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	25,000 Gallons
0.15 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	25,000 Gallons
0.12 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	98,000 Gallons
0.11 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	800,000 Gallons
0.09 per 1,000 Gallons	For All Over	1,000,000 Gallons

The village of Bond organized a cooperative water works association in 1967 and with the assistance of an F.H.A. loan and grant, installed a water system that serves about 90 families in the community. An eight-inch well was drilled to a depth of 850 feet, which yields about 250 gallons per minute. Water storage is provided by an 8,000 gallon capacity hydro-pneumatic surface tank and a reserve surface tank of 4,000 gallons capacity. The monthly rate schedule follows.

Bond Water Rate Schedule

$5.50 Minimum	For the First	3,000 Gallons
1.00 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	2,000 Gallons
0.75 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	2,000 Gallons
0.50 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	5,000 Gallons
0.31 per 1,000 Gallons	For All Over	12,000 Gallons

The Perkinston area is served by the Perkinston Junior College water system. It serves some 50 families in the immediate area of the campus. The water supply comes from a six-inch well drilled to a depth of 960 feet in 1957 that yields about 400 gallons per minute. There is also an older six-inch well 250 feet deep on a stand-by basis for emergencies. Water storage is provided by an elevated tank of 25,000 gallons capacity. The monthly charge for water is a flat rate of $1.50 for residential users and $3.00 for the few commercial users.

The village of McHenry organized a cooperative water association in 1967 and with the help of an F.H.A. loan and grant installed a water system that serves nearly 100 families in the community. The well yields about 250 gallons per minute. Water storage is provided by a hydro-pneumatic surface tank of 8,000 gallons capacity. The monthly charge for water follows.

McHenry Water Rate Schedule

$5.50 Minimum	For the First	3,000 Gallons
1.00 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	2,000 Gallons
0.75 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	2,000 Gallons
0.50 per 1,000 Gallons	For the Next	5,000 Gallons
0.30 per 1,000 Gallons	For All Over	12,000 Gallons

The New Zion Community has also recently organized a cooperative water association and secured an F.H.A. loan and grant to install a water system designed to serve approximately 75 rural families in that area. Detail information regarding this system was not obtained.

A chemical analysis of the public water supplies of Wiggins and Perkinston Junior College follows.

Table 25. Chemical Analysis, Stone County Public Water Supplies

Chemicals in Parts Per Million	Wells*			
	1	2	3	4
Silica (SiO_2)	2.3	2.8	23.0	36.0
Iron (Fe)	0	0.12	0.41	0.01
Calcium (Ca)	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.05
Magnesium (Mg)	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2
Sodium (Na)	2.8	4.6	61.0	51.0
Potassium (K)	0.5	2.6	1.0	1.2
Bicarbonate (HCO_3)	4.0	15.0	147.0	124.0
Carbonate (CO_3)	0	0	0	0
Sulfate (SO_4)	0.8	0.2	6.2	11.0
Chloride (CL)	4.5	3.8	4.0	1.7
Fluoride (F)	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Nitrate (NO_3)	0.9	0.4	0.1	0
Total Dissolved Solids	16.0	24.0	169.0	164.0
Hardness as $CaCO_3$	6.0	4.0	3.0	2.0
pH	6.3	6.8	7.8	7.3

* 1 - Wiggins - Depth 200 feet; 9/1/59
2 - Wiggins - Depth 425 feet; 9/1/59
3 - Wiggins - Depth 960 feet; 3/24/66
4 - Perkinston Junior College - Depth 951 feet; 7/16/65
Source: U. S. Geological Survey, U. S. Department of Interior

Surface Water

Surface water resources of Stone County consist of streams in the Pascagoula and Coastal River basins. The water course draining the largest part of the county is Red Creek, which enters the northwestern part of the county and flows southeast to the vicinity of Perkinston, thence eastward to Big Black Creek and the Pascagoula River. Major tributaries to Red Creek lying wholly or in part in Stone County are Bluff, Cypress, Flint, Ten Mile, Kirby, and Chaney Creeks. Black Creek, the largest stream in the area, crosses the extreme northeastern corner of the county and flows southeast to the Pascagoula River. The southern part of the county is drained by headwater streams of Tchoutacabouffa, Biloxi, and Wolf Rivers, which flow south to the Mississippi Sound.

The U. S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Mississippi Board of Water Commissioners and other State and Federal agencies, has collected stream flow data at several sites in and adjacent to Stone County. A continuous - record stream - gaging station was maintained from August, 1957 to September, 1968 on Flint Creek at State Highway 26 about 3.8 miles east of Wiggins. The natural drainage area at the site was 24.8 square miles. The average discharge for this gaging station for the period of record was 49.5 (CFS) cubic feet per second. The minimum discharge observed at this station was 12 CFS and occurred December 7, 1965, and May 28 and 29, 1967. The greatest known flood occured April 27, 1964, and produced a peak discharge of 3,670 CFS at an elevation of 148.44 feet, mean sea level. After November 29, 1965, flow was affected by Flint Creek Reservoir upstream controlling 10.3 square miles of the drainage basin. The surface area of the reservoir is 600 acres and the capacity at flood pool level is 11,820 acre feet.

Table 26. Minimum Observed Streamflow, Stone County

Station and Location	Drainage Area (sq.mi.)	Minimum Discharge	
		Date	CFS*
Red Creek, Old State Hwy. 26 4 miles west of Wiggins	168	10/23/53	22.4
Red Creek, U. S. Hwy. 49 1/2 mile north of Perkinston	218	10/16/63	36.3
Bluff Creek, State Hwy. 26 12 miles east of Wiggins	28.4	10/20/54	4.98
Black Creek, State Hwy. 26 15 miles east of Wiggins	530	9/19/56	121.0

*1 cubic foot per second flowing for one day is equal to 646,000 gallons.

Stream flow data have been collected at several miscellaneous sites in the county and minimum observed discharges with date of occurrence for these sites are given in the preceding table.

Considerable information is available on outstanding floods that have occurred on streams in Stone County. These data are in various flood reports of the U. S. Geological Survey and the Mississippi Board of Water Commissioners.

At base flow most of the stream discharge consists of ground-water seepage into the streams, and at high flow most of the discharge consists of direct runoff from rainfall. Usually, the dissolved-solids concentrations in the water are greatest at low flow and least during period of high flow.

Analyses of water from selected streams in Stone County show that the water is soft, the greatest hardness measured being less than 60 milligrams per liter. All the chemical constituents analyzed were below the maximum concentrations allowed for most uses.

Chemical analyses of samples collected from Flint Creek below Wiggins indicate a wide range in water quality. Variation in the mineral content of Flint Creek is the result of waste material being dumped into the stream from the Wiggins area.

C. Utility Resources

Electricity

Stone County is served by two electric power suppliers; Mississippi Power Company and Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association. Mississippi Power Company with headquarters in Gulfport serves the Town of Wiggins and the villages of Bond, Perkinston, and

McHenry, also the rural residents along old U. S. Highway 49 through the county. It serves approximately 1,500 residential customers and 350 commercial accounts. The average monthly usage per residential customer is about 580 kilowatts, which is nearly double what it was ten years ago. A full-time office is maintained in Wiggins. The monthly rage schedules currently in effect follow.

Residential Rate*

$1.50 Minimum	For the First	32 KWH
3.6¢ per KWH	For the Next	58 KWH
2.2¢ per KWH	For the Next	180 KWH
1.0¢ per KWH	For All Over	270 KWH

*The "all-electric" residential rate is $90 for the first 6,000 KWH or less; plus 1.0¢ per KWH for all additional KWH used annually. If billed monthly, the minimum is $7.50.

Commercial Rate (Small Lighting and Power Service)

A. For the first 80 KWH used each month per KW required by customer:

$1.00	For the First	20 KWH
4.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	360 KWH
4.0¢ per KWH	For the Next	620 KWH
3.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	1,000 KWH

B. For the next 100 KWH used each month per KW required by customer:

2.0¢ per KWH for all KWH

C. For the next 120 KWH used each month per KW required by customer:

1.0¢ per KWH for all KWH

D. For all over 300 KWH used each month per KW required by customer:

0.8¢ per KWH for all KWH

Intermediate Lighting and Power Service Rate

This rate schedule applies to electric service used by one customer in a single establishment on one premises, who requires 25 kilowatts or more for lighting and power purposes.

A. For the first 40 KWH used each month per KW required by customer:

5.0¢ per KWH

B. For the next 140 KWH used each month per KW required by customer:

3.1¢ per KWH	For the Next	1,000 KWH
1.6¢ per KWH	For the Next	2,000 KWH
1.3¢ per KWH	For the Next	15,000 KWH
1.0¢ per KWH	For the Next	32,000 KWH
0.9¢ per KWH	For the Next	50,000 KWH
0.8¢ per KWH	For All Over	100,000 KWH

C. For all over 180 KWH used each month per KW required by customer:

0.8¢ per KWH for all KWH

Large Power Electric Service Rate

This rate schedule applies to electric service used only by one customer in a single establishment on one premises, who requires not less than 500 kilowatts.

A. Charge for monthly requirement:

$1.25 per KW required

B. Charge for Power factor correction:

20¢ per KVA for those kilovolt-amperes, if any, by which the total KVA exceeds the kilovolt-amperes corresponding to a power factor of 90 per cent.

C. Charge for KWH used:

2.0¢ per KWH	For the First	5,000 KWH
1.1¢ per KWH	For the Next	35,000 KWH
0.9¢ per KWH	For the Next	60,000 KWH
0.8¢ per KWH	For the Next	100,000 KWH
0.7¢ per KWH	For the Next	100,000 KWH
0.6¢ per KWH	For All Over	300,000 KWH

Also, 0.53¢ per KWH for all KWH used in excess of 180 KWH per KW required by customer.

The Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association, an R.E.A. Cooperative, with headquarters in Columbia, serves the remaining rural area of Stone County. There are two sub-stations in the county; one at Big Level, and the other south of Wiggins serving a chipping plant of St. Regis Paper Company. A 44,000 volt transmission line connects these two sub-stations. Three phase service is available throughout the county. Monthly rate schedules follow.

Farm and Home Service Rate

$1.35 Minimum		
9.0¢ per KWH	For the First	20 KWH
3.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	30 KWH
2.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	150 KWH
1.7¢ per KWH	For the Next	300 KWH
1.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	1,000 KWH
1.2¢ per KWH	For All Over	1,500 KWH

Farm and Home Service Rate (with storage type water heater)

$1.35 Minimum		
9.0¢ per KWH	For the First	20 KWH
3.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	30 KWH
2.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	100 KWH
1.2¢ per KWH	For the Next	150 KWH
1.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	1,200 KWH
1.2¢ per KWH	For All Over	1,500 KWH

Commercial Rate

$1.35 Minimum		
9.0¢ per KWH	For the First	20 KWH
3.5¢ per KWH	For the Next	30 KWH
3.2¢ per KWH	For the Next	750 KWH
2.2¢ per KWH	For the Next	1,200 KWH
1.7¢ per KWH	For the Next	2,000 KWH
1.5¢ per KWH	For All Over	4,000 KWH

Demand Charge: $1.00 per KWH for all KW in excess of 25 KW.

Large Power Rate

Available to all installations using in excess of 50 KW

Demand Charge:

$1.15 per KW for the first 50 KW of demand
$1.00 per KW for all over 50 KW of demand

Energy Charge:

2.15¢ per KWH for the first 50 KWH per KW
1.55¢ per KWH for the next 100 KWH per KW
0.9¢ per KWH for balance of KWH used
Minimum monthly charge: specified in contract, or 75¢ per KVA of required transformer capacity.

Natural Gas

United Gas Corporation has provided natural gas service to the Wiggins area and Perkinston since 1949. The transmission line taps the United Gas Pipe Line about three miles north of the county line in adjoining Perry County to get its supply of natural gas. The distribution system serves all the corporate limits of Wiggins and immediate surrounding area, and the Gulf Coast Junior College at Perkinston and residents of the village. The system serves nearly 900 customers including about 140 commercial or industrial establishments. The United Gas Corporation office in Lumberton handles the monthly billing and all service requests. The monthly residential and commercial rate schedules follow.

Residential Rates*

$1.66 Minimum	For the First	1,000 Cu. Ft.
12.55¢ per 100 Cu. Ft.	For the Next	2,000 Cu. Ft.
6.55¢ per 100 Cu. Ft.	For the Next	3,000 Cu. Ft.
4.55¢ per 100 Cu. Ft.	For All Over	6,000 Cu. Ft.

*The above rate schedule is applicable to natural gas service to a customer in a dwelling or residential apartment for uses in a home during the months of May through October. For the months of November through April, the 6.55¢ block is extended to 47,000 Cu. Ft., and 4.55¢ per 100 Cu. Ft. is charged for all additional gas used.

Commercial Rates

$1.67 Minimum	For the First	1,000 Cu. Ft.
12.7¢ per Cu. Ft.	For the Next	2,000 Cu. Ft.
6.7¢ per 100 Cu. Ft.	For the Next	47,000 Cu. Ft.
4.7¢ per 100 Cu. Ft.	For All Over	50,000 Cu. Ft.

Industrial (Large Volume) Rates

$24.00 Minimum	For the First	25,000 Cu. Ft.
54.5¢ per 1,000 Cu. Ft.	For the Next	125,000 Cu. Ft.
39.5¢ per 1,000 Cu. Ft.	For the Next	150,000 Cu. Ft.
34.5¢ per 1,000 Cu. Ft.	For All Over	300,000 Cu. Ft.

Maximum billing for the first 500,000 Cu. Ft. - $192.89.

Three natural gas transmission lines traverse Stone County; Tennessee Gas Transmission Company and Florida Gas Transmission Company pipe lines cross the extreme northwestern corner of the county, and United Gas Pipe Line Company's line crosses the extreme northeastern corner running in a southeastern direction.

Other Fuel

Two local liquified petroleum (LP) gas distributors - butane and propane - bottled and bulk, serve approximately 900 customers in the areas of the county where natural gas is not available. They serve a few sawmills, schools, and stores, but mostly rural homes and farms. There are several LP gas distributors in towns in adjoining counties which no doubt serve areas of Stone County neareast to them. All distributors sell and service home and farm gas appliances.

Communications

South Central Bell Telephone Company provides rather extensive coverage of the entire county serving 1,885 telephone subscribers through a modern dial exchange in Wiggins.

The area business office located at 905 Hardy Street in Hattiesburg, handles the billing, installations, and service requests. There are a few very sparsely populated areas of the county that do not have telephone service. Monthly residential and business rates follow.

Private Line Service	Res. $3.97	Bus. $8.26
Two-Party Line Service	Res. $3.30	Bus. $7.23
Four-Party Line Service	Res. $3.04	Bus. $6.95
Eight-Party Line Service	Res. $2.94	Bus. $3.97

Radio Station WIGG located on old U. S. Highway 49 in Wiggins, serves Stone County as a means of communication providing news, entertainment, market information, advertising media, weather forecasts, and the like. It operates on a frequency of 1420 kilocycles with 1,000 kilowatts of power during daylight hours only.

There is not a TV station in the county, but all areas get good reception from stations in Jackson, Hattiesburg, and Biloxi, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; and Pensacola, Florida; with Biloxi being the strongest station. Station WLOX-TV, Channel 13, Biloxi - Gulfport - Pascagoula, has its transmitter located in the Sunflower Community in the southwestern part of Stone County with studios in the Buena Vista Hotel in Biloxi. It is an ABC affiliate utilizing a 1,316 foot tower and maximum radiated power.

Western Union Telegraph Company maintains an office at 232 Old U. S. Highway 49 North in Wiggins. Office hours are from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon every day except Sunday, and from 1:00 to 3:30 P.M. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Outgoing messages are telephoned to Hattiesburg and teletyped to point of destination. Incoming messages are telephoned to Wiggins from Jackson. Messages also can be sent any hour of the day or night by telephone to the Western Union Office in Jackson, and charges will be on the next telephone bill. Messages in Stone County are delivered by telephone, if possible, otherwise by mail, except death and casualty messages which are delivered by messenger.

The Stone County Enterprise, a local weekly newspaper, which is published every Thursday in Wiggins, carries news items from all parts of the county as well as local advertising. It has a total circulation of about 2,000. Daily newspapers which serve as communication and advertising media with a rather wide circulation in the county include the Hattiesburg American, the Mobile Register, the New Orleans Times Picayune, the Jackson Daily News and Clarion Ledger, and the Biloxi-Gulfport Herald.

Residents of Stone County are provided mail service six days a week through U. S. Post Offices at Bond, McHenry, Perkinston, and Wiggins. Mail is received each morning about 7:00 o'clock and dispatched each afternoon about 5:00 o'clock. One rural route operates out of the Bond Office, two from Perkinston, and three from Wiggins. First Class mail posted by 4:00 P.M. will usually be delivered the next day within a radius of about 350 miles, and two-day postal service might be expected to most all parts of the United States.

D. Mineral Resources[1/]

There has been no comprehensive survey made of the mineral resources of Stone County. Mention of the county appears in several early bulletins of the Geological Survey. Road making materials, sand and gravel, and the geology of ground water supplies were discussed in the early bulletins. The latest of these was Bulletin 60, Geology and Ground-Water Resources of the Coastal Area in Mississippi, by Glen F. Brown and others, published in 1944. Brown briefly discussed the geology of Stone County and, in more detail, the ground-water supplies.

Stone County is located in the Long Leaf Pine Hills physiographic division, which covers most of the southern half of the State of Mississippi. This division is characterized by

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[1/] Mississippi Geological Economic and Topographical Survey, Jackson, Mississippi.

rolling hills with not much relief in the topography. Elevations in the county range from about 50 feet above sea level in the lowlands bordering the major drainage in the eastern part of the county to approximately 370 feet above sea level in the western portion. Black Creek and Red Creek form the major drainage of the county. These streams are tributaries of the Pascagoula River, emptying into the river in adjoining Jackson County.

The geologic units exposed at the surface in Stone County are parts of the Pascagoula, Graham Ferry and Citronelle Formations and alluvium. The oldest rocks exposed are located in the northern part of the county, and also in areas of low elevation where the younger rocks have been eroded away. A general description of the formations follows.

Pascagoula Formation - Clay and Shale, generally blue-green, silt, sandy shale, gray and green sand, gray silty clay, and dark sandy gravel containing numerous grains and peebles of polished black chert; can be identified for the most part by a blackish water clam, Rangia Johnsoni.

Graham Ferry Formation - Silty clay and shale, sand, silty sand, and gravelley sand and gravel in heterogeneous deltaic masses; various colors, generally dark, carbonaceous clay most abundant in the outcrops; marine fossil casts in the upper beds are common.

Citronelle Formation - Brick-red sand and gravelly sand; the peebles are mostly brown chert and milky quartz; generally cross-bedded and in the lower part, contain thin beds and pockets of gray clay and clayey gravel.

Alluvium - Chert and quartz gravels and sands grading up into sandy clays and silt.

The geologic map of the State, or the map prepared by Brown, do not differentiate the Pascagoula Formation from the Graham Ferry Formation. However, in most instances the Pascagoula Formation would most likely be found exposed at the surface in the northern part of the county or in areas of lower elevation. The Graham Ferry Formation overlies the Pascagoula Formation and is normally exposed in the southern part of the county. The Citronelle Formation overlies both the Pascagoula and Graham Ferry Formations. The Citronelle is therefore, found at the higher elevations, usually limited to the areas of drainage divides. The Alluvium is found near the drainage with the largest areal extent limited to the vicinity of the major streams.

Sand and Gravel

Present mineral production is limited to the mining of sand and gravel deposits found in the Citronelle Formation. Large gravel pits are located near McHenry and Perkinston which produce tremendous amounts of sand and gravel each year. There are currently four operators with dredges producing washed sand and gravel in Stone County. Most of the sand and gravel is used in building construction and road construction - asphalt and concrete. There are approximately 15 workable sand and gravel pits in the county, and known deposits are estimated to contain in excess of five million cubic yards.

Clays

Although the Pascagoula and Graham Ferry Formations contain clays, the silica content is often high limiting the use of these types of clays to the manufacture of common brick. Ceramic testing of the clays from these formations would be required to determine if they could be utilized for other ceramic products.

Oil and Gas (Sulphur)

A number of oil tests have been drilled in Stone County but no commercial production has been established. However, Phillips Petroleum Company drilled a well in Section 35, Township 1 South, Range 10 West, in Perry County near the Stone County line into the Smackover Limestone Formation and discovered gas with a high hydrogen sulphide content. This discovery was in 1965 and the field was named the Black Creek Field. The discovery well, which has been closed in awaiting further developments in the area, has a sulphur extraction rate of 30 tons to the million cubic feet of gas. A second well has recently been drilled in the Black Creek Field in Section 10, Township 2 South, Range 10 West, in Stone County encountering hydrogen sulphide gas at a depth of approximately 20,000 feet and production casing has been set. This confirmation well was a joing venture by Phillips Petroleum Company and Pan American Sulphur Company, which indicates a good possibility that a sulphur extraction plant will be located in the field in the near future.

E. Forestry Resources [1]

The forests of Stone County were cut heavily during the early 1900's, in fact all the virgin stands were clear-cut by the time of the depression of the 1930's. However, since then a good portion of the county became a part of the DeSoto National Forest and individual landowners became conservation minded and as a result most of the original forest land has been re-stocked. Since 1957, it is estimated that 15 million pine trees have been planted on 17,000 acres and stand improvement work has been done on 40,000 acres.

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[1] Area Forester, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Wiggins, Mississippi.

According to Mississippi Forests, published in 1958 by the Southern Forest Experiment Station, U. S. Forest Service, there were 247,000 acres in commercial forest land, or 86.2 per cent of the total land area of 286,720 acres in the county. A great majority of the forest land, about 135,000 acres, is owned by forest industries including International Paper Company, St. Regis Paper Company, Crown-Zellerback Corporation, and others. There are 39,769 acres in the DeSoto National Forest, and about 8,000 acres in the University of Mississippi Forest; the remainder being privately owned.

Stone County is within the longleaf-slash pine zone of the central Gulf area. Pines occupy practically all of the flats and ridges and hardwoods, particularly the soft hardwoods, occupy the bottom lands along the streams. According to the U. S. Forest Service Survey made in 1957, the timber resources totaled 100,700,000 cubic feet of solid, well-formed trees 5.0 inches in diameter and larger. This consisted of 62,000,000 cubic feet of softwoods, nearly all pines, and 39,100,000 cubic feet of hardwoods (28,700,000 cubic feet of soft hardwoods such as sweet gum, yellow poplar, sweet bay, magnolia, black gum, tupelo gum, etc.; 9,900,000 cubic feet of oaks - mostly red oak and white oak, and 500,000 cubic feet of other hard hardwoods). The sawtimber component of the resources consisted of 261,300,000 board feet of pines and 94,700,000 board feet of hardwoods.

The 1968 Timber Severance Tax Report shows that 27,134,000 board feet of lumber, logs, poles and piling; 48,146 standard coards of pulpwood; 5,063 tons of distillate wood; and 552 barrels of turpentine gum were harvested from Stone County forest lands during the year. A total of $16,397.89 of timber severance tax was collected for the year, which was nearly twice the average for the past 28 years. About 5,000,000 board feet of forest products are harvested annually from the DeSoto National Forest in Stone County valued at about $200,000 at the current price level. Twenty-five per cent of the gross receipts from National Forest Lands is returned to the county, which is about $50,000 based on the above figures. This money is equally expended for public schools and roads in the school districts containing these lands. The average annual growth of the pines exceeds the average annual cut by more than 10 per cent; whereas, the average annual cut of the hardwoods exceeds the average annual growth by more than 10 per cent.

The wood using industries or market outlets for forest products in Stone County consist of four stationary sawmills, two portable sawmills, two planer mills, one veneer mill, four pulpwood yards, one naval stores distilling plant, one wood preserving plant - posts, poles and lumber, one chipping plant, one shuttle block mill, and one pine bark processing plant.

In addition to these present industries, an announcement was made during the operation of the Smaller Communities Program in Stone County, that International Paper Company will build a $10,000,000 wood products manufacturing center at Wiggins. The fully integrated complex will include a pine plywood mill, a stud mill, a chipping plant, and a wood preserving plant, to achieve total wood utilization. The new facility is expected to be in operation by mid-1970 providing direct employment for approximately 300 people, and creating employment for an additional 300 people in the woods.

A tax of 2¢ per acre is levied on each acre of forest land and uncultivatable land in the county, other than the government owned forest land, for the purpose of receiving the financial and supervisory cooperation of the Mississippi Forestry Commission in forest fire protection and forest management. The Mississippi Forestry Commission has two fire lookout towers and two fire-fighting units; the U. S. Forest Service, two fire fighting Units; the University Forest, one lookout tower and three fire-fighting units; also, forest industries -- International Paper Company, Crown-Zellerback, and Dantzler Lumber Company have their fire-fighting units. Although each fire control organization has its own area of primary responsibility, during critical periods of fire occurrence, all cooperate in the suppression of wild fires. Each fire fighting unit consists of a two-way radio equippped truck which carries a medium crawler-type tractor equipped with a fire plow, and a two-man crew with hand tools.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission through the Area Forester in Wiggins, provides services to landowners on all phases of their forestry problems. It offers 40 acres of free marking of timber to be harvested and a limited amount marked for a fee as time permits. It plows fire lanes at cost and gives advice on control burning. It also administers the forestry practices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Program. The Commission furnishes technical assistance in administering the 16th Section school lands in the county. In this respect, Stone County ranks second in the State with total timber sale receipts ($233, 154) derived from 16th Section lands since 1958. Net revenues from such go into the County's school fund.

The U. S. Forest Service, Black Creek Ranger District Office is located at 122 East Cavers Avenue in Wiggins. The Leaf River Ranger District of the DeSoto National Forest formerly in Hattiesburg, has just recently been combined with the Black Creek Ranger District and the headquarters will remain in Wiggins and retain its designation as Black Creek District. The combined district will administer almost 250, 000 acres of National Forest lands.

There are three consulting foresters in the county available to landowners for technical assistance in the management of their timbered lands.

V. STONE COUNTY'S COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A. Form of Government and Tax Structure

Wiggins, the only incorporated town in the county, has the Mayor-Board of Alderman type of government. The Mayor and five aldermen are elected from the twon-at-large for four-year terms by the qualified voters. The fiscal affairs of the county are governed by the Board of Supervisors consisting of five members, with one being elected every four years from each of the Beats, or political subdivisions. Other elected officials in the county government are the Chancery Clerk, Circuit Clerk, Sheriff and Tax Collector, Superintendent of Education, and Tax Assessor. Constables and Justices of the Peace are elected from each Beat.

Municipal taxes are levied by the Mayor-Board of Aldermen, who also budget the town's expenditures. The County tax levies are set by the Board of Supervisors, who also approve all county expenditures. The County Tax Assessor prepares the tax roll and submits it to the supervisors before the first Monday in July each year. This report is reviewed and notice is published by the Board of Supervisors so that any complaints to be made may be registered not later than the August meeting. Taxes are collected in the county by the Sheriff during the months of October through January. The assessed valuation for the county in 1968 was $6,862,244, an increase of about 40 per cent during the past five years. A breakdown of the county tax levy is shown in Table 27.

Stone County had a total bonded indebtedness of $524,750 at the end of 1968, consisting of $123,750 general obligation bonds, and $401,000 in revenue bonds which are not included in determining the legal bonding capacity.

The Town of Wiggins had an assessed valuation of $1, 192, 415. The total bonded indebtedness was $210, 000 consisting of only $10, 000 general obligation bonds, and $200, 000 in revenue bonds. The tax levy is 16.5 mills; general fund 9.0 mills; street improvement bonds 6.0 mills; and special fund 1.5 mills.

Table 27. Tax Structure, Stone County, 1968-1969

Purpose	Levy in Mills
State Tax	4.00
General County Maintenance	9.00
Special County Maintenance	3.00
Gulf Coast Junior College Maintenance	3.50
Gulf Coast Junior College, Bond Retirement, etc.	3.00
Minimum School Program	8.00
Stone County School District Maintenance	17.00
Public Health Department, Treatment of Indigent Sick, etc.	1.50
Support of the Poor	1.00
Pat Harrison Waterway District	0.50
Stone County Hospital, Maintenance and Support	3.00
Regional Library Support	1.00
Stone County Road and Bridge Maintenance	3.00
Stone County School District (5-Year Notes Retirement)	2.00
Stone County School District, Bond Retirement	2.00
Stone County Health Center, Bond Retirement	2.00
2¢ per acre on all timbered and uncultivatable land, except public owned land	

Source: Chancery Clerk's Office, Wiggins, Mississippi.

The Mississippi Homestead Exemption Law exempts home owners of all ad valorem taxes on their homes up to the value of $5, 000 except for levies made for interest, retirement of bonds, and general municipal levies. Also, there is a personal property tax exemption, on practically all property for personal or household use, with the exception of automobiles; this being allowed by the county and municipalities. All farm property such as livestock, farm products, and farm machinery is free from ad valorem taxes.

B. State and Local Laws Affecting Business and Special Business Taxes

Mississippi pioneered in the field of area industrial development in 1936 with its "Balance Agriculture with Industry" (BAWI) program, as an example of the State's positive and progressive attitude toward business and economic advancement. Realizing, however, that the potential still far exceeded achievements, the 1960 Legislature enacted into law a bold, new dramatic Economic Development Program popularly titled, "A Bill of Rights for Business and Industry".

The "Bill of Rights" contained 39 specific laws designed to accelerate the economic development of the State. It covered reduction of the State's income tax; clarification of the Workmen's Compensation Statutes; putting the Right-to-Work Law into the Constitution; increasing the effectiveness of the State's work in industrial development, youth affairs, and travel promotion; providing for Standard Industrial Parks throughout the State; authorizing the use of Industrial Revenue Bonds; developing the State's Ports; providing for plant feasibility studies; extending the basic BAWI Law; promoting warehousing and distribution operations through tax exemption; encouraging the organization of Business Development Corporations; extending tax exemptions to industries; encouraging area development activities and community betterment programs; and providing for economic research.

The 1964 Legislature provided for a State Marketing Council within the framework of the State Agricultural and Industrial Board for the purpose of promoting the marketing of products produced or manufactured within the State. The 1966 Legislature passed a Uniform Commercial Code which will enable business transactions in Mississippi to be made in a manner that is common in most other states.

State law allows cities and counties to grant new manufacturers moving into communities exemption from ad valorem taxes for a period of 10 years. Industrial expansions may also be granted tax exemptions. Local government units may float bonds to finance purchase of industrial sites and construction of buildings for factories. The bonds may be amortized over a period of 20 to 25 years, and factory buildings can be leased to industry for as long as 99 years. Plants constructed from the sale of public bonds with title publicity held (BAWI, and Industrial Rvenue Bond plants) are, of course, exempt from ad valorem taxes.

The State Income Tax is levied against the net income of individuals and business firms residing, or doing business, in the State. The rate is 3 per cent on the first $5,000 above exemptions and deductions allowed, and 4 per cent on all over $5,000.

All businesses incorporating within the State are required to register with the Secretary of State and to pay a corporate organization fee. The basis of the fee for recording corporate charters is the authorized capital stock of the corporation. The rates are $20 for $5,000 capital stock or less; in excess of this amount, $2 per $1,000 with a minimum of $10.

The State Corporate Franchise Tax amounts to $2.50 per $1,000 of capital used, invested or employed in the State. If part of the capital investment is located outside the State, then a formula is applied. There is a minimum franchise tax of $10. Local privilege licenses are required of some manufacturing plants; amounts vary, but are fixed by the Legislature and are comparable with neighboring states.

There is an annual factory inspection fee for all manufacturing plants employing women at hourly wage rates. This fee ranges from $10 per year for a plant of 5 to 10 employees, to $200 per year for a plant employing over 300 women.

Although of little importance to manufacturing enterprises, the Retail Sales Tax is the largest single source of revenue for the State of Mississippi. The 1968 Legislature raised the retail sales tax rate from 3.5 to 5.0 per cent and voided present municipal retail sales taxes with a provision for reimbursing municipalities at the rate of the prevailing tax at the time of the passage of the new law. There is a one-eighth per cent State sales tax on products sold to a retailer for resale or to a contractor for building materials. There is also a one per cent State sales tax on industrial electric power, gas, coal, and other fuel, when sold to a manufacturer.

Employers of four or more persons in non-exempt industries are required by State and Federal laws to participate in the Unemployment Insurance Program (Section 7368, Mississippi Code of 1942, as amended in 1964). The taxable payroll is the first $3,000 of each employee's annual earnings. An employer is eligible for consideration for an experience rating if he has a minimum of twelve months of chargeability ending June 30th preceding the beginning of the tax year. The total experience which can be used is a maximum of thirty-six months of chargeability ending on June 30th, preceding the beginning of the tax year. An employer who is eligible for an experience rating receives a rate that is a ratio between the benefits charged to his account and his taxable payroll for the same period. In addition to this, there is a general experience rate that is common to all eligible employers. The more benefits charged to an employer's account, the higher his rate will be. The maximum State rate is 2.7 per cent. The lowest or minimum State tax rate will be the general experience factor; for the year 1969 this factor is 0.0 per cent. It will vary from year to year. The normal Federal tax on taxable payrolls is 0.4 per cent.

Workmen's Compensation Insurance must be carried by Mississippi employers of eight or more persons (Section 6998, Mississippi Code of 1942, as amended). Every employer carrying such insurance (or self insured) must pay to the Workmen's Compensation Commission a $100 registration fee, and pay their prorata part of the Commission's operating expenses. Such proportion is based on the amount of compensation paid by the individual compensation carrier or self insurer; the amount approximates 2 1/2 per cent of compensation payments and medical expenses.

The State imposes a severance tax on the removal of certain natural resources such as timber, oil and natural gas. The State Board of Water Commissioners regulates and controls the use of surface water. The 1966 Legislature created the Mississippi Air and Water Polution Control Commission, which has designated the State Oil and Gas Board as the agency that will regulate salt water disposal wells around oil fields. At the same time the Legislature repealed the State Game and Fish Commission's authority to regulate water polution. A Securities Act prohibits certain fraudulent practices related to securities and requires the registration of broker-dealers, agents, and investment advisors with the Secretary of State.

Sections 8264-8267 of the 1942 Code, as revised in 1964, fix the size, weight and load limits for motor vehicles on the highways of Mississippi. The maximum axle load for a single axle is 18,000 pounds. The maximum load carried by any group of two axles (where one or more is a driving axle) is 24,000 pounds, or 27,000 pounds for highways so authorized by the State Highway Commission. For certain highways designated by the Highway Commission, the maximum load allowed to be carried by any group of axles is 73,280 pounds. For other state roads there is a 57,650 pound maximum load. The maximum length for a single venicle is 35 feet, except for busses with three axles, in which case 40 feet is the maximum. For combination truck-tractor and semi-trailer or other combinations, the maximum length is 55 feet. Vehicles must not exceed the height of 13 feet and 6 inches.

Stone County has no local labor laws, however, all State and Federal Labor Laws are applicable. Briefly, the State Labor Laws regulate the hours of work and prohibit the use of child labor under 14 years of age in certain establishments, and regulate the hours of work of female employees; all under authority of Sections 69 and 85 of the Mississippi Code of 1942. Also, the U. S. Fair Labor Standards Act prohibits the employment of children under 16 years of age during hours when schools in their home areas are in session, and sets minimum wage and overtime standards for employment in different industries. Details on these may be secured at the nearest office of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, U. S. Department of Labor. There are no known unique hiring practices or restrictions in Stone County. There is no "Little Wagner Act" governing labor-management relations and Mississippi has no Fair Employment Practices Act.

Mississippi has a "Right-to-Work" Law giving individuals freedom of choice on whether or not to join a labor union. Employers may not require employees to join or remain in a labor union, nor may they prohibit union membership as a consideration of employment. The law was approved as an amendment to the State Constitution in June, 1960, by a vote of 105, 724 to 47, 461.

Insurance companies and public utilities are subject to special State taxes which compare favorably with those levied by neighboring states.

C. Services Available By Federal, State and Local Institutions

In addition to the normal services and functions of the county and municipal governments, certain services of the State and Federal governments are available to the area. The Federal Government provides agricultural services through the local offices of the Soil

Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committee which are located in Wiggins. Credit services are available through the Bank of Wiggins, The Stone Savings and Loan Association, the Hattiesburg Production Credit Association, the Federal Land Bank Association of Hattiesburg, and the Farmers Home Administration Office in the Blass Building on Second Street in Wiggins. The Small Business Administration is also a source of credit, with borrowers having to go to Gulfport to file an application for a loan.

The Social Security Administration provides services on an itinerant basis one day each week at the Courthouse in Wiggins. A total of about 1,340 citizens of Stone County received Social Security benefits in the amount of approximately $1,000,000 during 1968. State and local government services are regularly available through offices of the Health Department, Public Welfare Department, and the Mississippi Forestry Commission in Wiggins. Additional State and Federal services, on a local basis, are available through the Cooperative Extension Service County Agents and Home Economists with offices at 533 First Street, S.E., in Wiggins.

The Mississippi State Employment Service Center Office in Gulfport provides services to Stone County residents on an itinerant basis every Wednesday morning at the Courthouse in Wiggins. The State Game and Fish Commission serves the county through local game wardens. Other State and Federal services may be made available, on request, from agencies or branches in Jackson, Mississippi.

D. Police Protection

The sheriff is the principal law enforcement officer in the county. His staff consists of two office deputies and five outside deputies. The office deputies help collect taxes, sell automobile tags, perform all clerical work and bookkeeping. The outstide deputies assist the sheriff in all his duties, but have the primary responsibility of law enforcement in the rural areas of the county. The sheriff's office has two automobiles equipped with two-way radios whereby they can maintain communication with the office and the Highway Safety Patrol. The elected constables in each Beat also assist the sheriff in law enforcement.

The Town of Wiggins has two police officers who provide police protection twenty-four hours a day. They use a municipally owned police patrol car equipped with a two-way radio so as to maintain communication with the Highway Safety Patrol. The policeman who is on duty at night regularly patrols the streets protecting property and maintaining law and order.

The Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol has two patrolmen and one patrol car stationed in Wiggins to patrol the highways in Stone County. The patrol car is marked and has a two-way radio to maintain communication with district headquarters, the county sheriff's office and the Wiggins policemen.

E. Fire Protection 1/

All incorporated towns in the State are graded by class for fire insurance rating purposes by the Mississippi State Rating Bureau. The town class depends upon the adequacy and reliability of the municipal facilities, such as: water system, fire department, fire alarm system, enforcement of building and fire protection ordinances, and actual structural conditions of the business district. Rates applicable to dwellings depend on public protection, construction, and proximity to a standard fire hydrant. Commercial buildings are rated

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1/ Mississippi State Rating Bureau, Jackson, Mississippi.

on an individual basis with rates depending on factors, such as: public and private protection, construction, type of occupancy, exposure, and proximity to a standard fire hydrant.

Wiggins has a volunteer fire department consisting of a fire chief and 17 firemen. Fire fighting equipment consists of a 1960 model, 500 gallons per minute, American Fire Apparatus pumper mounted on a Ford truck chassis, and in reserve, a war surplus, 500 gallons per minute, Oren pumper mounted on a 1942 model Chevrolet truck chassis. The fire station is located adjacent to City Hall at the corner of First and College Streets on the northern edge of the business district. The fire alarm is an electric siren mounted on the roof of the fire station. Firestare reported by telephone on a group alert system. When the telephone number reserved for fire calls is dialed, the telephone in City Hall, in the fire chief's place of business, and in the homes of five firemen all ring simultaneously. A switch is located by each of these telephones whereby the fire alarm siren may be activated. The water supply is more than adequate with 200,000 gallons of storage capacity and the pressure in the water mains averages about 60 pounds per square inch. Wiggins is graded as Eighth Class for fire insurance rating purposes.

The Gulf Coast Junior College at Perkinston has a loosely organized volunteer fire department with a 500 gallons per minute war surplus pumper mounted on a 1942 model Ford truck chassis. It furnishes fire protection for the college property and private homes and businesses in the little village surrounding the campus.

F. Schools[1]

The quality of a community's school system is often considered by business and industry as a yardstick by which the general quality of all community services may be measured.

Public schools in Mississippi have undergone a period of reorganization and super consolidation in recent years. The larger units which have resulted provide a richer educational program with broader curriculums. Many new well equipped school buildings have been constructed. Sixty-eight of the eighty-two counties in the State have been reorganized on a county unit basis. Some of the counties have within their borders independent or special separate school districts, usually in the larger towns and cities; however, there are none of these in Stone County.

Stone County is consolidated into a county-unit school system known as the Stone County School District. It is administered by the County School Board consisting of five members, one elected from each Beat by the qualified voters for a term of four years. The County Superintendent of Education is an ex-officio member of the Board, but makes recommendations for the Board's consideration, since he is the administrative head of all public schools in the system.

The reorganization of schools in Stone County resulted in five attendance centers or schools; two high schools and three elementary schools. Stone High School in Wiggins has grades nine through twelve, and Locker High School in Wiggins has grades one through twelve. Elementary schools with grades one through eight are located at Perkinston, Wiggins, and in the Big Level Community.

1/ County Superintendent of Education, Wiggins, Mississippi.

The enrollment, average daily attendance, number of teachers, pupil-teacher ratio, and total expenditure per pupil for the 1968-1969 session are shown in the following table. The status of the schools for the 1969-1970 session is unknown at this time, since the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has declared the schools of Stone County not in compliance with the Civil Rights Law, and the case is now in Federal Court.

Table 28. Public Schools in Stone County, 1968-1969

Schools	Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance	Number of Teachers	Pupil-Teacher Ratio	Per Pupil Expenditure
Home El.	122	117.9	6	19.6	
Perkinston El.	328	310.5	14	22.2	
Wiggins El.	539	516.0	23	22.4	
Stone High	489	450.9	22	20.5	
Locker High	583	547.0	24	24.3	
Total	2,061	1,942.3	89	21.8	$332.39*

*For 1967-1968 School Year. Latest Figure Available.

The pupil-teacher ratio of 21.8 pupils in average daily attendance per teacher is considerably better than the State average of 25.2 pupils per teacher and compares very favorably with the U. S. average. The total expenditure per pupil in average daily attendance in the Stone County School District during the 1967-1968 school term was $332.39 including expenditures for school lunches and milk. This compares with the State average of $364 and the estimated U. S. average of $619 for the same school term.

All of the schools are accredited by the Mississippi Accrediting Commission and the curriculums compare favorably with other rural schools in the State. The high schools offer from 28 to 36 units. Both high schools have good commercial departments offering typing, shorthand, bookkeeping, business mathematics, business law, and office practice training. [illegible] industrial arts, [illegible]

Vocational training in agriculture, home economics, industrial arts, and mechanical drawing is also offered.

The pupils are transported in a fleet of 42 steel-bodied county owned busses. All schools in the county have approved lunchroom facilities that serve lunch to about 1,200 pupils daily. The general health status of the school children is good. The County Health Department gives pre-school physical examinations and immunizations against whooping cough, diptheria, typhoid, and smallpox.

A private elementary school, Pines Academy, was organized in Wiggins during the early part of 1968 and is presently housed in temporary buildings. It is a non-graded school that is adapted to individual differences and abilities with a favorable pupil-teacher ratio. The school has a normal elementary curriculum plus piano, German, and dance. It is accredited by the Mississippi State Accrediting Commission.

The Gulf Coast Junior College District consists of George, Harrison, Jackson and Stone Counties. The original Junior College was located at Perkinston (a dormitory campus) about five miles south of Wiggins on U. S. Highway 49. Later two other units were established; the Jackson County Campus at Gautier about five miles west of Pascagoula on U. S. Highway 90, and the Jefferson Davis Campus at Handsboro on Back Bay between Biloxi and Gulfport in Harrison County. They are affiliated with the Mississippi Association of Colleges and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In addition to the regular academic subjects, the Gulf Coast Junior College curriculums include a wide selection of vocational-technical courses which provide the graduates with the foundation for a life-time profession. Constant review and updating these courses keeps them current with industry's changing growth. These courses include an associate degree nursing program, computer programming technology, business data processing technology, distribution and marketing technology, drafting and design technology, electrical technology, electronics technology, motel-hotel-restaurant operation, mechanical technology, metallurgical and welding technology, radio broadcasting technology, X-ray technology, and a variety of specific talents needed by industry in the area, such as automotive mechanics, bricklaying, carpentry, industrial electricity, machine shop, metal trades, pipefitting, plumbing, letterpress printing, offset printing, saw filing, practical nursing, welding, sheetmetal work, and TV production.

The Gulf Coast Junior College District operates busses daily between Wiggins and the Perkinston and Jefferson Davis Campuses to provide transportation for students in the county who wish to pursue their education and training while living at home.

Also, there are four-year colleges located in Hattiesburg, University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey College, for those who want to pursue higher education to the degree level. These are only about 40 miles north of Wiggins and in reasonable commuting distance.

G. Churches

With the consolidation of the rural schools in the county, the churches have increasingly become the center of most community activities. Residents of practically all religious faiths have ample opportunity to worship God and develop their spiritual lives with church attendance and fellowship. Churches of most of the denominations common in the area are located throughout the county and are easily accessible. A few of the churches have a full-time program with all auxiliaries active. Others have part-time programs with the minister serving two or more churches. Most of the churches offer Sunday School, worship services, prayer meetings, other religious services, and some social functions.

Table 29. Churches in Stone County

Denomination	Number of Churches	Approximate Membership
White		
Landmark Faithway Baptist	7	588
Southern Baptist	5	1,148
Baptist Missionary Association	7	1,066
Catholic	1	100
Methodist	3	839
Presbyterian	1	90
Church of Christ	1	60
Seventh Day Adventist	1	36
Assembly of God	1	15
Total	27	3,942
Negro		
Church of Christ	1	100
Missionary Baptist	10	750
Methodist	4	350
Holiness	1	80
Total	16	1,280

H. Hospital and Medical Facilities

Public health services on a full-time basis were organized in 1940 and have been available continuously since then. The County Health Department is housed in a modern brick building designed for that purpose and is located on Critz Street across from the Stone County Hospital.

A control program against preventable diseases protects the public by immunizing against diptheria, whooping cough, smallpox, typhoid fever, poliomyelitis, and tetanus. The health department investigates cases of communicable diseases for sources of infection and then supervises and advises families on how to prevent the spread of disease. Body speciments are collected to help determine the type and extent of disease. Venereal diseases, tuberculosis, malaria, pellagra, and intestinal and parasitic diseases are combatted through special prevention and treatment measures.

Skin testing for tuberculosis, bloodtesting for premarital examinations, and screening for diabetes detection are all a part of weekly activities. Early recognition and treatment of cancer, heart disease, and rheumatic fever prophylaxis is promoted through education and case findings.

Tuberculosis is detected by the Mobile X-ray Unit which visits the county twice each year. Everyone is encouraged to have an X-ray made. Follow-up X-rays of suspicious and tubercular cases are made at the County Health Department on the second Monday in each month from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. The Health Department provides sanatorium care and home treatment for tuberculosis cases.

A Sanitation Program safeguards the public through the regulation of the production and distribution of food and milk; the control of vectors through basic sanitation measures and the application of insecticides and rodenticides; the prevention of water pollution by promotion and supervision of waste treatment facilities both public and private; and the promotion and supervision of approved public and private water supplies. The Health Department requires physical examinations, immunizations, and X-rays for food and milk handlers.

There are two nursing homes in Wiggins, Azalea Gardens Nursing Center and Wiggins Convelescent Home. Patients in these homes are protected by inspections and licensing under supervision of trained health department personnel. Assistance is given to nursing home management in the planning and maintenance of adequate facilities.

School children are served through physical education and recreation programs, environmental sanitation services, health services to school personnel, guidance and instruction in healthful living, accident prevention programs, periodic medical examinations and advice, mental health programs, and hearing and vision screening tests. Funds and other services for the correction of medical defects are provided for the medically indigent.

The Health Department records vital statistics. They are very important to all citizens because a birth certificate is necessary to show age for entering school, voting, marrying, etc., to prove age for entering military service; and to verify age for American citizenship and for employment purposes. Family birth, marriage, divorce, and death records are necessary proofs for protecting the members of families in certain legal matters.

The Health Department Laboratory is available for testing the purity of City, school, and private water supplies; determining the sanitary quality of milk; determining the fluoride content of water; and examining body specimens which includes feces, blood, urine, sputum and other body exudates to detect typhoid fever, tuberculosis, syphilis, gonorrhea, intestinal parasites, viral infections and other diseases.

All of these services are administered through the Stone County Health Department in cooperation with the Mississippi State Board of Health. The local Health Department staff consists of the County Health Officer, one full-time public health nurse, a sanitarian, and one full-time clerk-typist. The nurse holds immunization and treatment clincs each Tuesday afternoon and Friday. The County Health Officer, a medical doctor, is on a part-time basis serving more than one county, but is available for physical examinations, treatment, and referrals on every other Tuesday. The sanitarian is also on a part-time basis, working three days each week in Stone County.

There are four medical doctors, two dentists, one optometrist, ten registered nruses, thirteen licensed practical nurses, and one mid-wife in the county to minister to the health needs of its citizens.

Stone County Hospital located at 214 Critz Street in Wiggins is the only hospital in the county. It was built in 1950 with a capacity of 37 beds. Plans are being made now for an addition of 20 private rooms and the renovation of the existing structure. Other licensed hospitals in the surrounding area that might be available to local residents are shown in the following table.

Table 30. Hospitals in Counties Surrounding Stone County

Hospitals	Number of Beds	Miles From Wiggins
George County, Lucedale	60	36
Singing River, Pascagoula	238	70
Perry County,General, Richton	30	45
Forrest County General, Hattiesburg	160	40
Methodist, Hattiesburg	190	40
Pearl River County, Poplarville	30	25
Memorial, Gulfport	205	35
Howard Memorial, Biloxi	156	47

Source: Mississippi Commission on Hospital Care, Jackson, Mississippi.

I. Sewerage Facilities

The municipal sewerage disposal system of Wiggins consists of three lagoons that are considered of adequate capacity. However, the collection lines do not cover all of the corporate limits at the present time. Work is now in progress to extend the sewerage collection lines to all of the municipality. The monthly residential charge for sewerage service is $2.50. The Gulf Coast Junior College at Perkinston has a modern lagoon type sewerage disposal system that is adequate for its needs. Residents in all other parts of the county depend on individual septic tanks and sanitary outdoor toilets.

J. Public Welfare Facilities

The Stone County Public Welfare Department staff consists of a welfare agent, one case worker, and one clerk-typist. The Welfare Department Office is located at 533 First Street in the same building with the County Agent. The commodity warehouse is located on old U. S. Highway 49 North, next door to the Mississippi Power Company Office. A summary of the public assistance rendered to the residents of Stone County through the Welfare Department during the fiscal year July 1, 1968, through June 30, 1969, follows.

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE	
Total Applications Handled	49
Total Number Determined Eligible	38
Total Number Determined Not Eligible	8
Total Number Pending	3
Total Number Cases Handled	268
Total Number Added to Rolls	52
Total Number Removed From Rolls	33
Total Number Receiving Checks, June 30, 1969	235
Total Amount of Assistance	$89,697

AID TO BLIND	
Total Applications Handled	2
Total Number Determined Eligible	2
Total Number Determined Not Eligible	0
Total Number Pending	0
Total Number Cases Handled	7
Total Number Added to Rolls	3
Total Number Removed From Rolls	1
Total Number Receiving Checks, June 30, 1969	6
Total Amount of Assistance	$ 2,341

AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Total Applications Handled	46
Total Number Determined Eligible	33
Total Number Determined Not Eligible	8
Total Number Pending	5
Total Number Cases Handled	76
Total Number Added to Rolls	33
Total Number Removed From Rolls	18
Total Number Receiving Checks, June 30, 1969	58*
Total Amount of Assistance	$22,275

AID TO PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED

Total Applications Handled	53
Total Number Determined Eligible	25
Total Number Determined Not Eligible	23
Total Number Pending	5
Total Number Cases Handled	91
Total Number Added to Rolls	28
Total Number Removed From Rolls	23
Total Number Receiving Checks, June 30, 1969	68
Total Amount of Assistance	$35,044

*Includes 201 Children.

There were 367 people in Stone County who received welfare checks in the total amount of $149,357 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969. The Welfare Department also made 73 medical vendor payments to hospitals for old age assistance and permanently and totally disabled recipients in the amount of $3,682; and medical vendor payments to nursing homes for 3,325 days care in the amount of $17,281.87.

During the same period an average of 923 people received commodities monthly with an estimated retail value of $107,040 for the year. The Welfare Department handled two child welfare service cases: one child in a foster boarding home in another county at a cost of $600, and three children under court order were supervised. There are no licensed foster boarding homes in Stone County.

K. Library Facilities

The citizens of Stone County have county-wide library service with the County participating in a regional system. The Pine Forest Regional Library, which was organized in 1958, is composed of Covington, Lamar, Perry and Stone Counties with the headquarters at Richton in Perry County.

There are two branch libraries in the county; Stone County Library in Wiggins, and the McHenry Community Library. Stone County Library is located on Pine Street in the business district of Wiggins and is open to the public from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon and from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. six days a week. It has about 5,000 volumes. The McHenry Branch Library is located on old U. S. Highway 49 near the Post Office and is open to the public from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday every week. It has approximately 3,000 volumes.

The basic support for the regional library is provided by the Boards of Supervisors through a tax levy of from 1.0 to 1.5 mills in each of the counties. The towns where each of the branch libraries are located support the program by providing quarters to house the collections and paying for all utilities.

The regional library operates a bookmobile on a bi-weekly schedule to serve the branch libraries and the rural communities and schools in the county. The regional library has approximately 50,000 volumes that it rotates between the various branch libraries in its service area, thus providing everyone a rather broad choice of reading material over a period of time. The Mississippi Library Commission, of course, contributes to the support of the library system.

L. Recreational Facilities

Stone County is more abundantly blessed with recreational facilities than most counties in Mississippi. This is particularly true as regards hunting, fishing, and water sports. Approximately 247,000 acres, or 86.2 per cent of the total land area, are in woodland which abounds with squirrels, rabbits, doves, quail, ducks, turkeys, coons, fox, and deer to provide recreation for those who like to hunt. Much of this land which is in private ownership is posted and may be hunted only by invitation or with permission of the owner. However, about 82,000 acres in the eastern part of the county is in the Red Creek Wildlife Management Area which includes practically all of the DeSoto National Forest lands and about 40,000 acres under lease from private or corporate owners. This area is under the supervision of the Mississippi State Game and Fish Commission, and controlled or managed hunting by permit is allowed the general public. About 3,000 acres of the University of Mississippi Forest is set aside as a game refuge on which no hunting is allowed.

The Red Creek Wildlife Management Area attracts many out of the county, even out of state, sportsmen especially during the turkey and deer seasons.

The newest and most elaborate recreational facility is the Flint Creek Water Park which adjoins the northeastern boundary of the City of Wiggins. This Park was conceived and authorized by the Board of Directors of the Pat Harrison Waterway District as a pilot project in late 1963. The initial concept was to have an impoundment of about 150 acres which would be primarily for recreation. A feasibility study conducted by a nationally known engineering firm recommended a larger impoundment necessary to satisfy present day needs. Then, the reservoir plan was revised to the present 600 surface acre impoundment.

Construction of the reservoir was begun in February, 1965, and was substantially completed by the spring of 1966. At this time, the Pat Harrison Waterway District realized that the full use of the lands surrounding the reservoir could not be enjoyed by the general public unless a considerable facility development could be provided. The Waterway District had invested about $700, 000 up to this point. It then presented a proposition to the U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in Atlanta, Georgia, suggesting that they consider a grant for the development of the recreation facilities on the basis that this could very well be a pilot project for them. The result was the authorization of a grant by the Bureau for $574, 987 on May 10, 1967. Planning and construction of shoreline facilities began immediately. These included paved roads all around the reservoir; boat launching ramps; a marina; picnic areas including picnic shelters and comfort stations; nature trails; camping areas with electricity, water and barbecue pits available; fencing the entire area; a maintenance area including building and equipment; a residence for the park manager; and a toll collecting kiosk.

The completed facility cost approximately $1, 500, 000. The operation of the project will be the responsibility of the Pat Harrison Waterway District. Activities in the area will include hiking, picnicking, camping, fishing, swimming, boating, sailing, skiing, etc. Flint Creek Water Park was dedicated with elaborate ceremonies on May 21, 1969, and is now open to the public for a fee. Entrance fees are $1.00 per vehicle, $1,00 per boat, and $5.00 per bus or truck load. User fees are $3.00 per day for Class A camping sites, $2.50 per day for Class B. camping sites, and $10.00 for the pre-scheduled use of the picnic shelter. Operating hours will be around the clock, seven days a week.

There are nine other lakes in the county, of which seven have camping facilities and two have residential sections, permanent or temporary summer cottages. Silver Run Lake, located about 13 miles southwest of Perkinston, has about 100 acres of water and offers camp sites, fishing, boating, and has a residential area. Brown's Lake, located about 15 miles southwest of Wiggins, has a 40 acre fishing lake. Lake Toc-O-Leen, located about 10 miles west of Wiggins on State Highway 26, covers about 60 acres and offers fishing, camp sites, and a fish restaurant that is open on weekends. Red Gas Lake, located about 13 miles southwest of Perkinston, covers about 135 acres offering fishing, boating, lodging, and camp sites, also has a private landing strip for light planes. Happy Lake, located 10 miles southwest of McHenry, covers 50 acres offering fishing and camping facilities. Ramsey Springs Lake, located in the DeSoto National Forest on State Highway 15 in the southeastern portion of the county, covers 10 acres and offers fishing and rental cottages. Airey Lake, located about 5 miles east of McHenry near the county line, is a recreational area in the DeSoto National Forest that is free to the public for fishing and picnicking. There is a five-mile nature trail ending here that begins on U. S. Highway 49 in Harrison County. Lake-A-Way Village, located about 5 miles east of Wiggins on State Highway 26, was designed primarily for senior citizens and those who desire recreation in a christian atmosphere. It has a 32 acre lake for fishing, boating, and swimming with camp sites and picnic areas available; also, there are lots for sale for those who wish to build homes or live in mobile homes.

Areas along Black Creek, Red Creek, Flint Creek and Biloxi River provide good fishing, swimming, and picnic grounds. Also, there are numerous farm ponds scattered throughout the county that may be fished with permission of the owners.

During the operation of the Smaller Communities Program, a group of businessmen in the Wiggins area organized the Pine Burr Recreation Corporation on a membership or share basis. It has acquired 80 acres of land just west of Wiggins off old State Highway 26 and U.S.

Highway 49, and initiated plans to build a giant recreational facility consisting of a club house or community center, a nine-hole golf course, a 25-acre lake, tennis courts, swimming pool, a lighted Little Leauge baseball park, etc. This should meet the long felt needs of the area and promote the growth of the community, and help attract new industry.

Then, too, Stone County is only about 20 miles north of the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast which offers every imaginable form of entertainment and recreation.

M. Civic, Social, Service and Fraternal Organizations

The civic, social, service, fraternal, and other organizations that are active in Stone County are listed as follows:

American Legions Posts (3)
Home Demonstration Clubs (7)
Boy Scout Troops (4)
Future Farmers of America
Future Homemakers of America
4-H Clubs (9)
Garden Clubs (2)
Parent-Teacher Associations (4)
Masonic Lodges (3)
Eastern Star Chapters (3)
Odd Fellows Lodge
Forrest County Farmers Cooperative, A.A.L. (Wiggins Branch)
Saddle Clubs (5)
Horse Show Associations (2)
Candy Stripers
Pine Burr Recreation Corporation
Flint Creek Water Park
Stone County Credit Bureau
Stone County Civil Defense Board
Stone County Fair Association
Stone County Farm Bureau
Stone County Industrial Board
Stone County Red Cross Chapter
Stone County Resource Development Program
Wiggins Chamber of Commerce
Wiggins Jaycees
Wiggins Jayceettes

Wiggins Rotary Club
Wiggins Kiwanis Club
Wiggins Duplicate Bridge Club
Wiggins Needlepoint Club
Wiggins Woman's Club
Wiggins Band Boosters' Club

N. Transportation Facilities

Highway Transportation [1]

U. S. Highway 49, a four lane route, is the county's major road with average daily traffic of 4,000 to 6,000 vehicles. It runs in a north-south direction through the center of the county going through Bond, Wiggins, Perkinston, and McHenry, and connects the Gulf Coast area with the City of Jackson, the State Capitol. U. S. Highway 49 also serves as a connection to Interstate Highway 59 at Hattiesburg to the north, and U. S. Highway 90 and proposed Interstate Highway 10 at Gulfport to the south.

State Highway 26, the county's other major route, bisects the northern part of the county from east to west intersecting U. S. Highway 49 at Wiggins, the County Seat. It connects Lucedale and Poplarville. The average daily traffic is between 1,000 and 1,800 vehicles.

State Highway 15 runs in a general north-south direction through the eastern portion of the county, but its use is very limited since it is presently unpaved, and the part north of State Highway 26 to Beaumont in adjoining Perry County is locally maintained. State Highway 29 runs northeasterly from Wiggins and intersects U. S. Highway 98 at New Augusta in adjoining Perry County.

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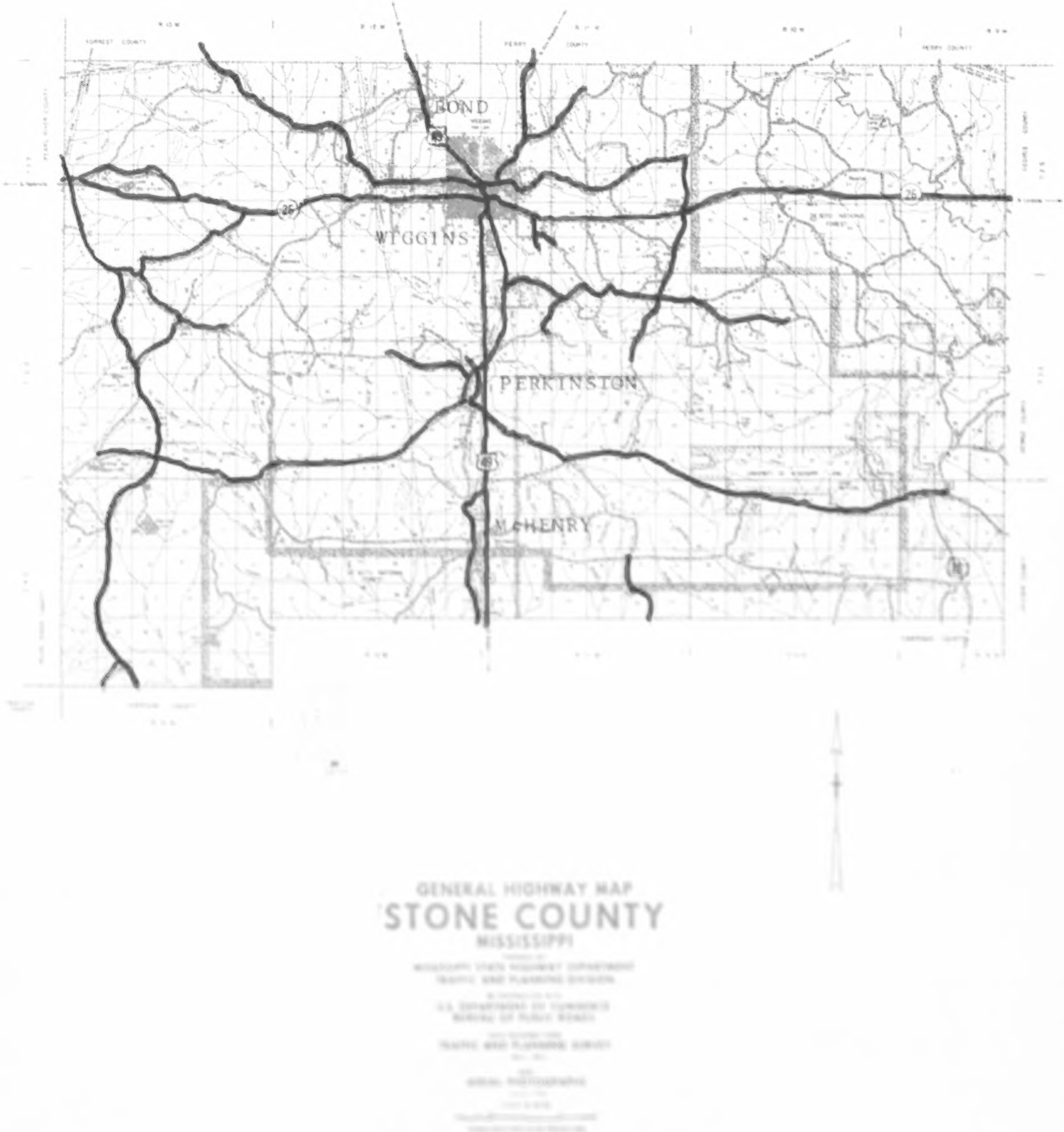
[1] Mississippi State Highway Department: and Mississippi Public Service Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.

A network of local roads, a good portion of which are paved, crisscross the county serving primarily the rural communities through which they pass. Stone County has a total of 450 miles of roads with about 200 miles paved, and most of the remainder are graveled. The only roadside park in the county is located just south of Wiggins on new U. S. Highway 49. It has picnic shelters, barbecue pits, water, lights, and clean rest rooms.

Regulated intrastate passenger bus service for Stone County is provided by Continental Southern Lines, Incorporated (Trailways). It operates four busses north and south daily between Jackson and Gulfport over U. S. Highway 49 serving Wiggins and Perkinston with Wiggins being the only agency station in the county. North bound busses leave Wiggins at 8:23 A.M., 11:36 A.M., 6:33 P.M., and 9:33 P.M. South bound busses leave Wiggins at 3:35 A.M., 11:31 A.M., 3:10 P.M., and 9:41 P.M. In addition, through busses go through Wiggins, north at 3:20 P.M. and south at 4:20 P.M., which will discharge passengers picked up at Gulfport, Hattiesburg, or Jackson.

Two motor freight common carriers of general commodities are authorized by the Mississippi Public Service Commission for intrastate operations into or through Stone County. Highway Express, Incorporated, provides truck freight service to all points in the county over all highways and roads. Pascagoula Drayage Company operates over U. S. Highway 49 between Hattiesburg and Gulfport, and over State Highway 26 between Poplarville and Lucedale, serving Stone County. Truck lines with state-wide authority, or with interstate authority from the U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission, may go into or through Stone County over all highways.


BOND
WIGGINS
PERKINSTON
McHENRY
26
49
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
STONE COUNTY
MISSISSIPPI

Map No. 3, Highway and Road Network, Stone County

Railroad Transportation

The Illinois Central Railroad runs north and south through the center of the county, generally parallel to U. S. Highway 49, providing freight service only. Wiggins is the only agency station. Operational spurs are located at Bond, McHenry, and Perkinston. All industries in Wiggins are also served by loading spurs. One freight train runs north and south daily. The Illinois Central connects with the Southern Railway, the Mississippi Central, and the Bonhonnie and Hattiesburg Southern Railroads in Hattiesburg to the north, and L. & N. Railroad in Gulfport to the south. These railroads connect with lines leading to all parts of the nation. The nearest points of rail passenger service are at Gulfport and Hattiesburg, both about equi-distant from Wiggins.

Air Transportation [1/]

There is one public airport in the county, Wiggins-Stone County Airport. It is located about one mile west of Wiggins, just off State Highway 26. It has a hard surfaced, north-south runway, 50' x 3,000' with lighted markers and a rotating beacon light from dusk to dawn. The landing apron is 150 feet by 250 feet. It has one hanger with a public telephone. There is a paved parking area for automobiles, and the entire airport is fenced. The airport is unattended but fuel is available; also charter service and flying instruction is offered. There is a small private sod landing strip at Red Gap Lake that accomodates light planes.

The nearest points of scheduled airline passenger service are at Gulfport and Hattiesburg, both of which are served with several flights daily by Southern Airways. Of course, more

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[1/] Mississippi State Aeronautics Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.

elaborate airport facilities are found in New Orleans, which is about 100 miles southwest of Wiggins, and in Mobile, which is about 80 miles east of Wiggins. Both are served by several major airlines and cargo carriers.

Water Transportation

Stone County has no chance of ever having water transportation facilities. However, it is located near enough to the deep seaport at Gulfport to enjoy some lower freight costs of water borne cargo. There is also a deep seaport located at Pascagoula in adjoining Jackson County.

O. Miscellaneous Services and Facilities

Present lodging facilities in Stone County are very meager; however, the need for modern lodging facilities might be questionable since Wiggins is located about mid-way between Hattiesburg and the Gulf Coast. It seems that the traveling public now demands elaborate facilities where there is a choice of entertainment, recreation, and good food. All of these can be found in Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Biloxi, and numerous other places on the Gulf Coast which is more or less a vacation resort area. There are two old hotels in the business district of Wiggins with a combined cpacity of 26 rooms and both of these are operated mostly as rooming houses with rates of $3.00 to $5.00 daily or $7.00 t0 $10.00 weekly. A fairly modern motel is located on old U. S. Highway 49 in the northern part of Wiggins. It has 17 units, most of which have private baths, T.V. and air conditioning; the rates are usually $7.00 per day with a lower rate on a few less desirable units. There is an 18 unit motel in South Wiggins with an adjoining restaurant that caters to Negro trade; the rates are $3.00 to $5.00 per day. Also, there is a rooming house located on Gum Branch Road west of Bond that caters to the same trade.

It is currently rumored that a "name" chain motel is planning to construct a luxury facility, including a restaurant, on new U. S. Highway 49 where it intersects State Highway 26 at Wiggins, in the near future. There are 14 restaurants in the county, all in Wiggins.

There are six practicing attorneys in the county to provide legal services for its citizens. There are five general insurance agencies in Wiggins, and about twelve other insurance agents in the county representing individual companies that provide insurance coverage of all kinds at standard rates. There are four medical doctors, two dentists, one optometrist, ten registered nurses, thirteen licensed practicial nurses, and one mid-wife, who provide health services in the county.

Other miscellaneous facilities and services available to residents of Stone County include two machine shops, six welding shops, one blacksmith shop, one feed mill, one ready-mix concrete plant, seven sawmills, two planer mills, one veneer mill, one wood treating plant, four pulpwood yards, three automobile dealers with service departments, ten automobile repair shops, two laundry and dry cleaning plants, five laundromats, one printing plant, one frozen food locker plant, one theater, two funeral homes, one florist, six barber shops, eight beauty shops, four plumbing and repair shops, two tractor and farm implement dealers, twenty-six service stations, three wholesale auto parts dealers, eight retail auto parts dealers, one tire recapping plant, one bakery, one pool hall, and four radio and TV repair shops. Of course, there are many trade outlets which offer goods and services that one would expect to find in any county, such as: grocery stores, drug stores, variety stores, department stores, hardware stores, apparel shops, jewelry stores, building supply stores, farm supply stores, furniture and appliance dealers, etc.

VI. POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS SITES

The only incorporated town, all the villages, and communities in Stone County are very much interested in industrial development and will actively assist in securing a site and constructing buildings for any suitable industry which might be interested in locating in any part of the county. Job opportunities are badly needed. The labor force is highly mobile. There has never been a legitimate labor dispute in the county. The State of Mississippi has a Right-to-Work Law.

The main industrial area as well as the business district of Wiggins, the county seat, lies along old U. S. Highway 49 and the Illinois Central Railroad which runs through the middle of the town. Most of the present industries are located in this area; however, there are several desirable industrial sites available now. In addition to the proximity of the railroad, paved access roads are available as well as all city utilities -- electricity, natural gas, water, and sewerage service.

The villages of Bond, McHenry and Perkinston are all located on U. S. Highway 49 and the Illinois Central Railroad and there are numerous potential industrial sites in each village. However, there are no identified and developed industrial parks in Stone County, and a need for such seems apparent. A brief description of some of the available potential industrial sites in the county is shown as follows in tabular form.

POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS SITES

Site (Town)	Wiggins					Bond		Perkinston
(No.)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	1
Size of Lot (Acres)	37 A.	28 A.	20 A.	10 A.	30 A.	10 A.	5 A.	60 A.
Building on Site	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Floor Area (Sq. Ft.)	60,000	--	--	--	--	8,000	12,000	--
Fire Insurance Class	8	--	8	--	8	--	--	--
Water	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Electricity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural Gas	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Sewerage	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R. R. Siding	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Describe Location								

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SMALLER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
STONE COUNTY
MISSISSIPPI

PART II
MANPOWER RESOURCE REPORT

Prepared by
MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION
John E. Aldridge, Executive Director
November, 1969

CONTENTS

Page

Introduction ---------- 1

Location of Stone County in Mississippi ---------- 2

Location of Stone County in Relation to Major Markets in the South ---------- 3

Highway and Road Network, Stone County ---------- 4

Highlights of Manpower Survey, Stone County ---------- 5

Area Summary ---------- 6

Population Trend ---------- 8

Population, Age Distribution ---------- 9

Labor Force Participation Rate ---------- 10

Labor Force Potential Addition ---------- 11

Occupation Trends ---------- 12

Occupational Distribution of Workers ---------- 13

Employment Status of Applicants ---------- 14

Availability of Applicants ---------- 15

Educational Level of Applicants ---------- 16

Work Experience of Applicants ---------- 17

Testing and Training Programs ---------- 18

Vocational Training and Higher Education ---------- 20

Meeting Your Work Force Needs ---------- 22

Stone County Resource Development Association ---------- 23

Stone County Business Fact Sheet ---------- 25

Potential Industrial and Business Sites ---------- 28

RC 005 073

SMALLER COMMUNITIES PROGRAM
STONE COUNTY

PART II

MANPOWER RESOURCES REPORT

This publication is the second part of a two-part series published by the Mississippi Employment Security Commission relating to the over-all objectives of the Smaller Communities Program operation conducted during the spring and early summer of 1969. It represents a survey of the manpower resources, current and potential, of Stone County, Mississippi. All factual data used in the compilation of this part are based on Census reports, or were secured from 944 residents of Stone County through an application-taking and aptitude-testing process.

The staff consisted of one Rural Area Representative (an experienced person from the State Office of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission) and five temporary employment interviewers, who were selected in the local area and trained to conduct the application-taking, aptitude-testing, and test evaluation phases of the program. This constituted a mobile team that operated in eight different community facilities conveniently located throughout the county while taking applications, administering aptitude tests, and evaluating test results with 944 individuals who represented a good cross section of the entire population (7,013) of the county. The sample in this study was equal to 43.3 per cent of the labor force, and 19.4 per cent of the population 14 years old and over.

The application files and test record cards are now located in the Gulfport Center Office of the Mississippi State Employment Service, which serves Stone County on an itinerant basis.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MANPOWER SURVEY

Community Response:	A total of 944 individuals filed work applications and were interviewed by the Smaller Communities Program mobile team during the period from April 1 through June 30, 1969. Included in the survey were 394 white males, 381 white females, 60 Negro males, and 109 Negro females. This represented 43 per cent of the labor force and 19 per cent of the population 14 years old and over.
Work Experience:	721 persons, or 76.4 per cent of the applicants, had non-agricultural work experience. 70 applicants had agricultural work experience only. There were 153 applicants who had very little or no work experience and were assigned entry codes only.
Labor Reserve:	146 applicants were not currently employed and available for work. 35 applicants were without full-time jobs and available for employment.
Trainability:	Approximately 60 per cent of the individuals surveyed showed interest in or aptitude for vocational-technical training.
Educational Level:	There were 41 college graduates; 136 who had from one to three years of college training; 351 high school graduates; 336 who had completed nine to eleven years of schooling; and 79 with an eighth grade education or less.
Mobility:	Approximately 90 per cent of the persons surveyed were willing to commute to work for a distance up to 35 miles from their homes. 313 persons, or nearly one-third of the applicants, were willing to relocate for suitable employment.
Present Job Potential:	Wood Using Industries - 300 employees Food Products Manufacturing - 235 employees Garment Manufacturing - 75 employees Naval Stores Manufacturing - 25 employees Contract Construction - 35 employees Transportation, Communication, etc. - 50 employees Retail and Wholesale Trade - 250 employees Services - 100 employees Finance, etc. - 25 employees Professional and Technical - 200 employees

AREA SUMMARY

Stone County is located in the "Piney Woods" area of southeast Mississippi. It is bounded on the north by Forrest and Perry Counties; on the east by George and Jackson Counties; on the south by Harrison County; and on the west by Pearl River County. It is almost rectangular in shape, with an additional one-third of a township in the southwestern corner of the county. It is 27 miles wide from each to west and 16 miles deep from north to south.

Wiggins, with a population of 1,591 in 1960, is the county seat, the only incorporated town, and main shopping center in the county. It is located in the north-central portion of the county on the Illinois Central Railroad where U. S. Highway 49 and State Highway 26 intersect. It is about 34 miles north of Gulfport which is on the Gulf of Mexico, 40 miles south of Hattiesburg, 130 miles southeast of Jackson, the State Capitol, and about 76 miles west of Mobile, Alabama.

The population of Stone County in 1960 was 7,013, according to U. S. Census data, which was an increase of 12 per cent from the 1950 Census. Also, it is estimated that the population further increased to 7,660, or 9.2 per cent, between 1960 and mid-1966. The entire population is classified by the Bureau of the Census as rural, with 15 per cent being designated as rural-farm population and 85 per cent as rural-nonfarm population.

There were 2,178 people in the civilian labor force in 1960, an increase of nearly 16 per cent from 1950. The rate of unemployment in 1960 was 4.1 per cent of the labor force. And, the Mississippi Employment Security Commission estimated the labor force at 2,498 during 1968 and the rate of unemployment at 4.3 per cent of the labor force.

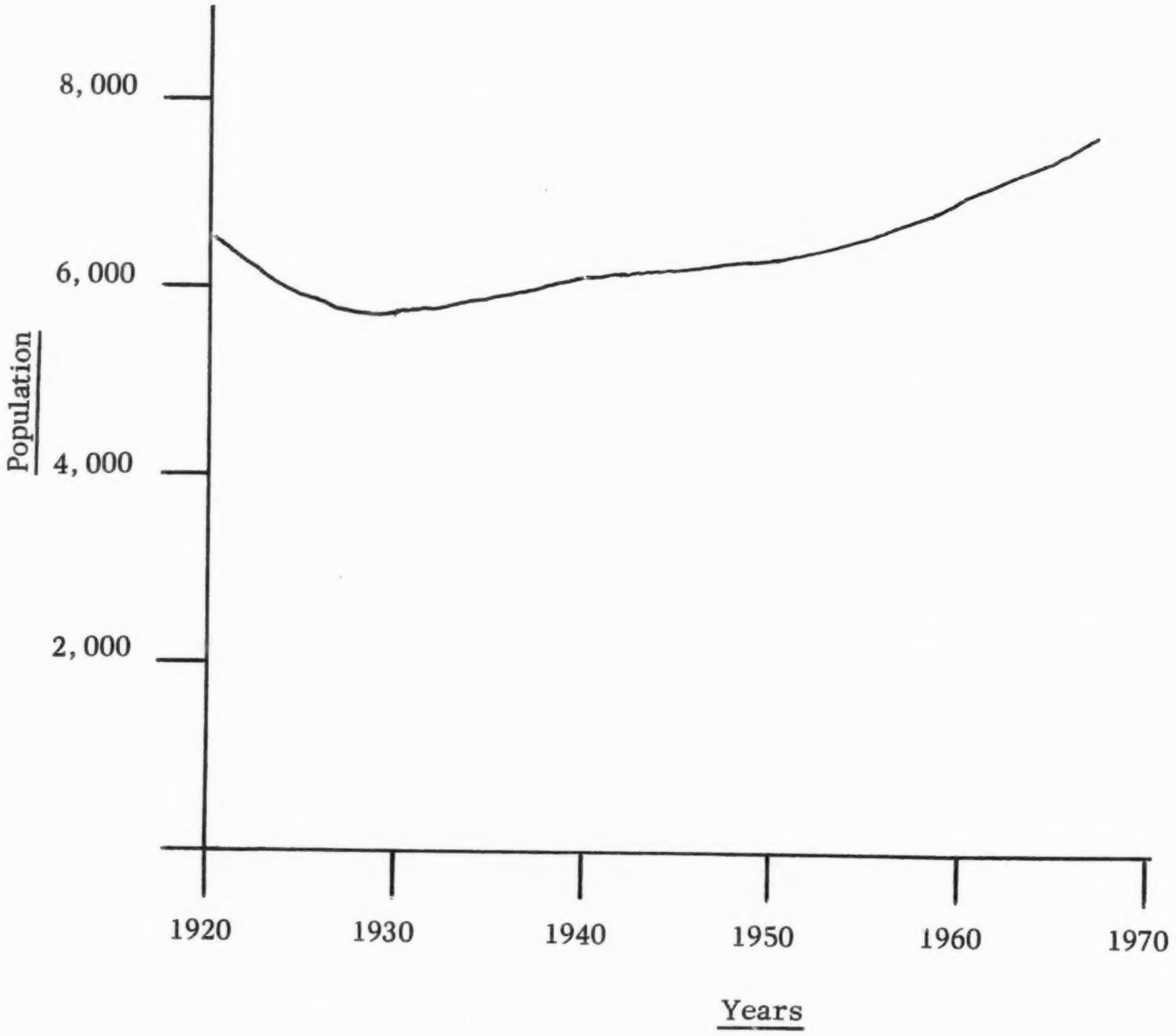
Stone County is a very desirable location for new or expanding industries. It has a very mild climate, an excellent network of paved roads including one major four-lane north-south U. S. Highway, good schools, good churches, and a friendly attitude toward business and industry. Numerous industrial sites along the Illinois Central Railroad which bisects the county are available at little or no cost to industry, particularly in the vicinity of Wiggins, and the villages of Bond, McHenry and Perkinston. Most of these potential industrial sites also have paved access roads, with electricity, natural gas, and water available.

The volume of sales in 1968 in Stone County was $13,870,302 as reported by the State Tax Commission. The median family income in 1959 was $3,058 with 49 per cent of all families in the county having income below the poverty level established by the U. S. Office of Ecomomic Opportunity. Stone County is a typical "Piney Woods" county of Southeast Mississippi, the economy traditionally dependent on agriculture and timber. Soybeans, horticultural crops, beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry and hogs are the main sources of farm income. Forestry is of great economic importance with 86 per cent of the total land area of the county being commercial forest land.

The leading industries in the manufacturing segment of the area's economy are lumber and wood products including naval stores which employ an average of 325 people, followed by food products (pickles) employing about 235 people. Garment manufacturing provides employment for about 75 people. Wholesale and retail trade accounts for about 250 workers; contract construction, transportation, communications, etc., about 75 to 100 workers; services, government, professional and technical, and miscellaneous account for about 350 workers.

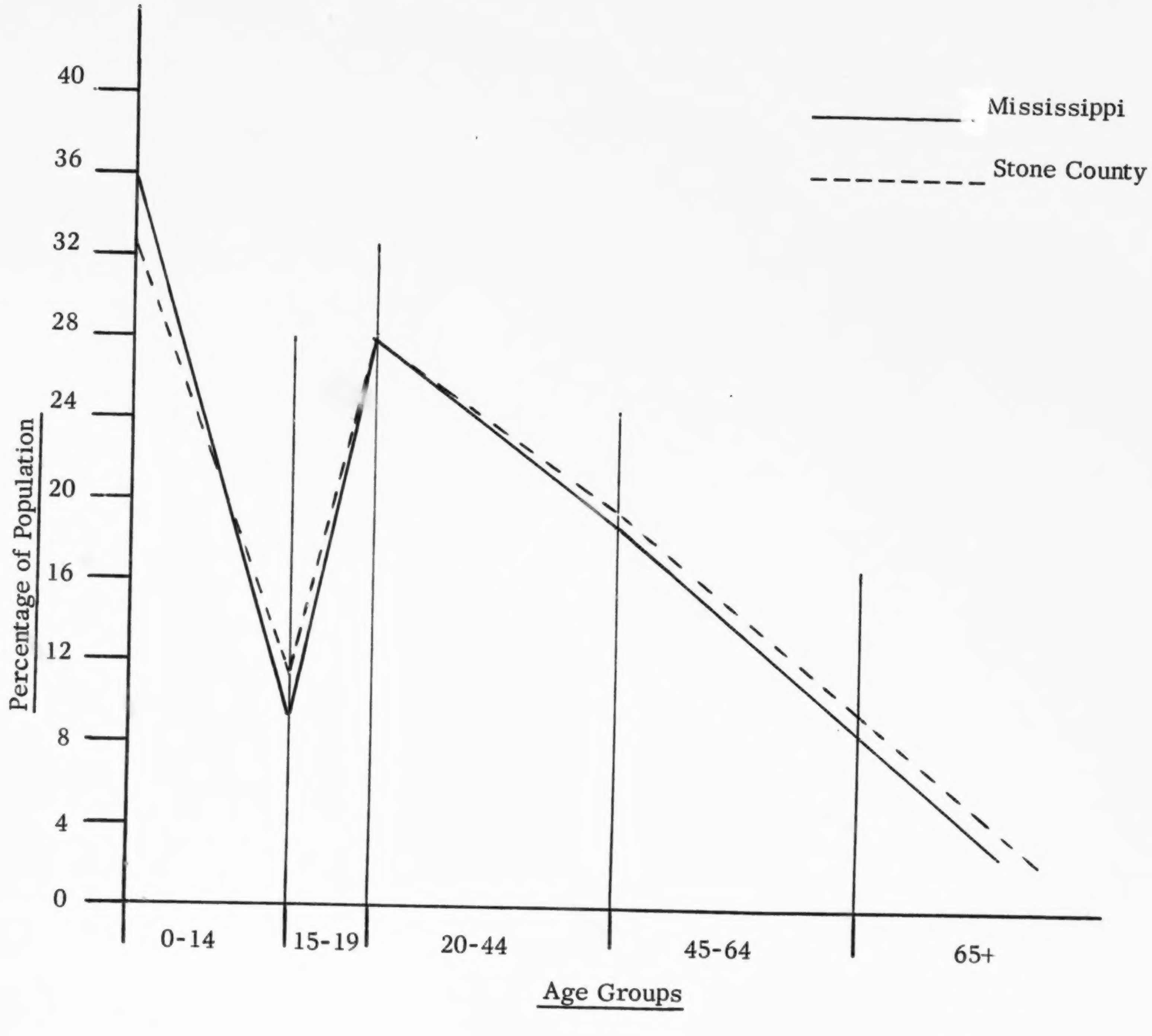
The annual industrial and business payroll of employment covered by the Mississippi Employment Security Law is currently about $4,265,000.

POPULATION TREND



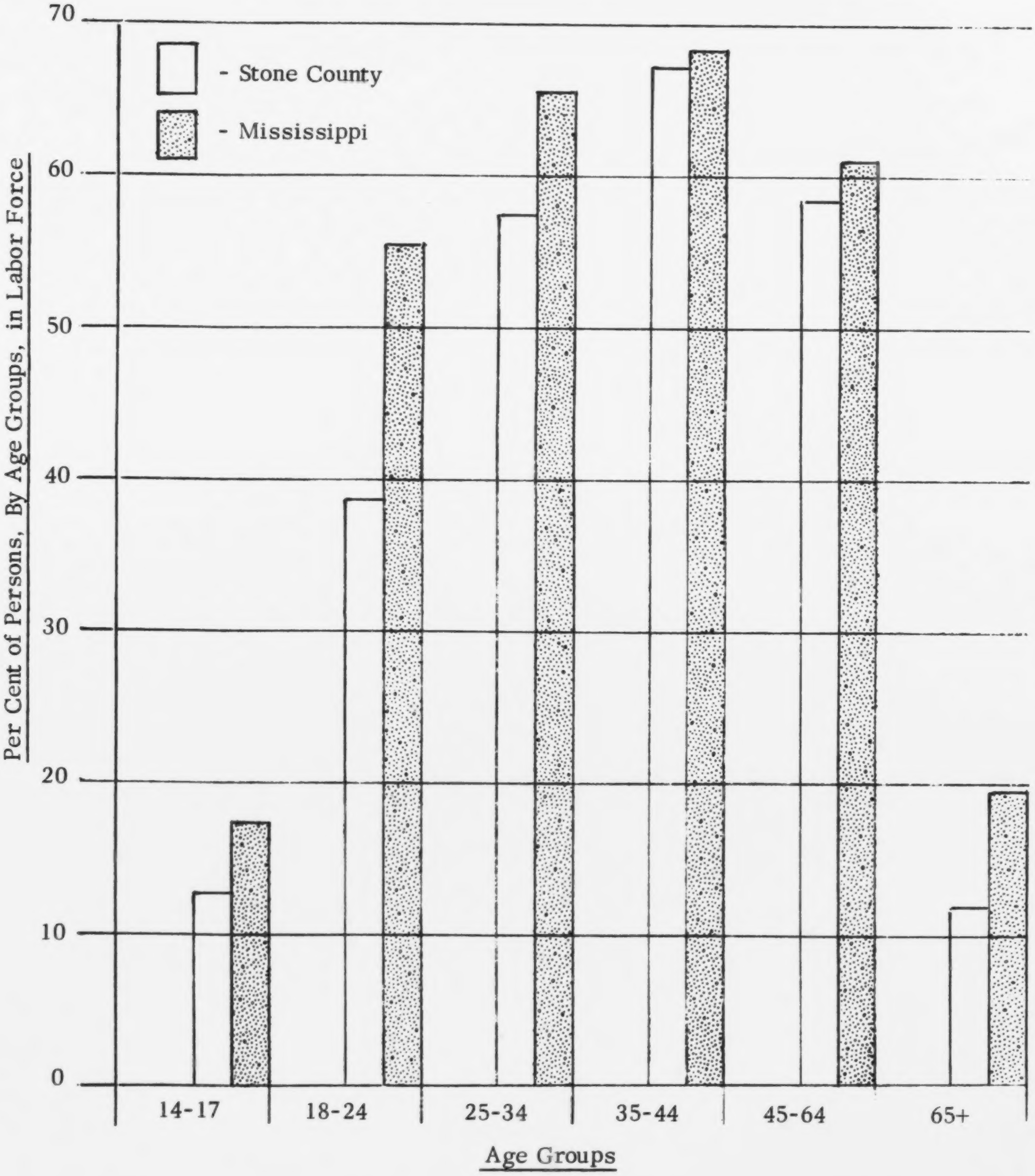
Stone County was next to the last county in Mississippi to be created (1916); hence, the area was already settled and populated. The Census of 1920 showed a population of 6,528 people. The population decreased rather sharply to 5,704 (12.6 per cent) in 1930. Since then there has been slow but steady increase in the population. The 1960 Census showed a population of 7,013, and it is estimated to have increased to 7,660 by mid-1966.

POPULATION
Age Distribution - 1960



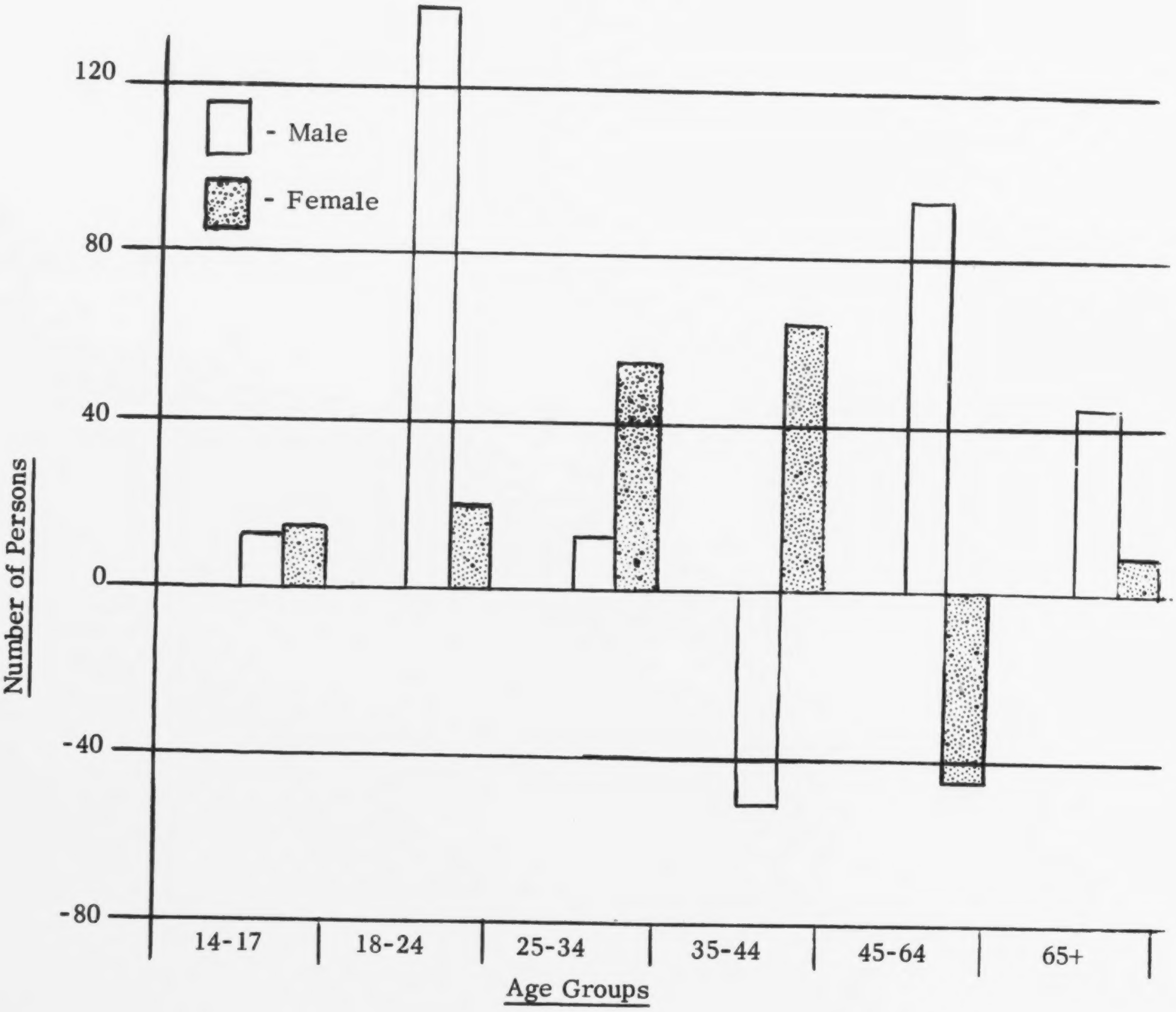
The age distribution pattern of the population of Stone County is compared with that of Mississippi in the above graph. The greatest variance is in the very young age group, with 3.4 per cent more in this group in the State than in Stone County. The next widest variance was in the 15 to 19 year old group with Stone County having 2 per cent more in this group than the State. The patterns in the 20 to 44 year old group are almost identical. In the older groups there are less than one per cent more in Stone County than in the State as a whole.

LABOR FORCE
Participation Rate By Age Groups - 1960



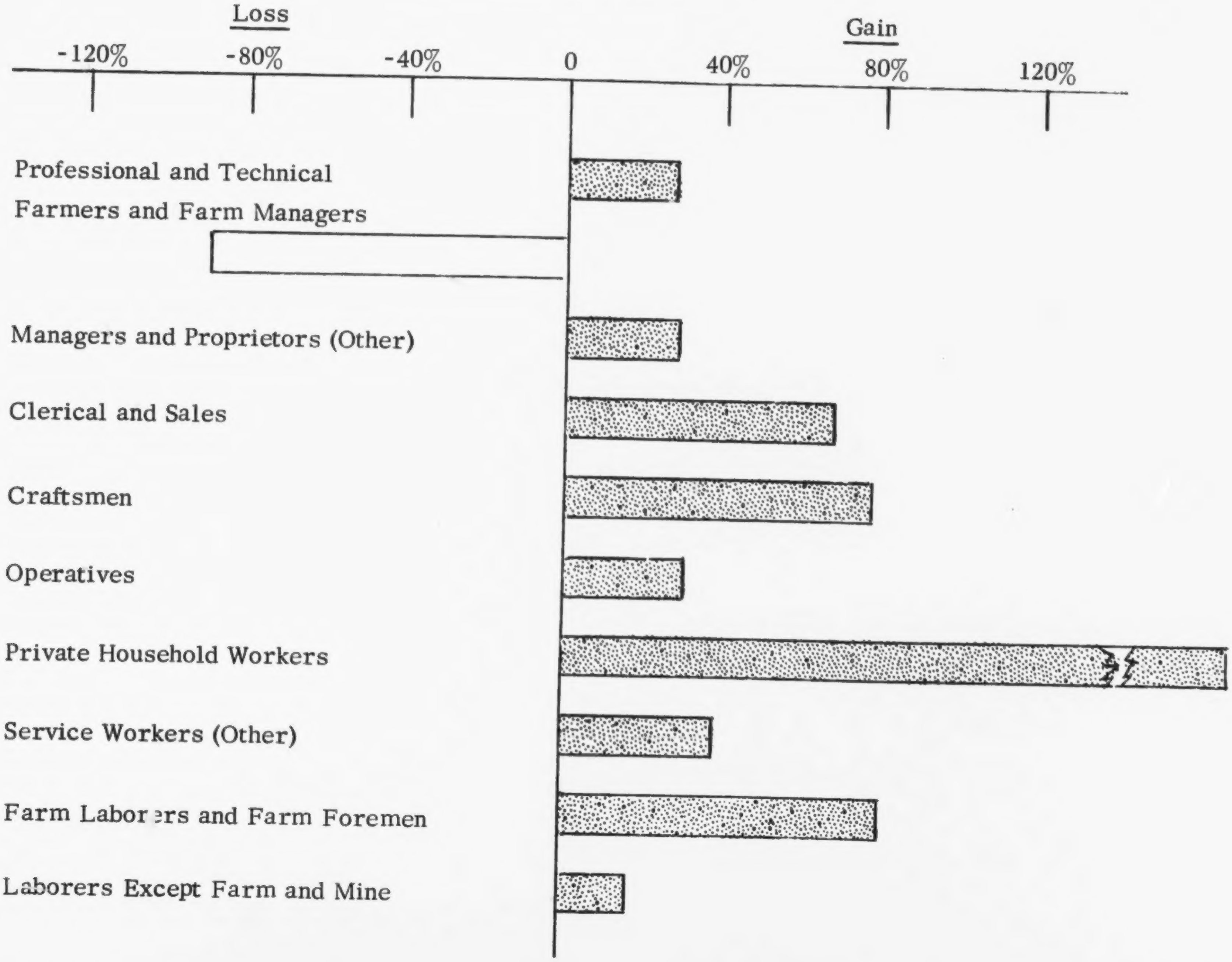
This chart shows a comparison between the rate of participation in the labor force, by age groups in Stone County and the State average. The State average is very significantly greater than the rate in Stone County in all age groups except the 35 to 44 and 45 to 64 year old groups. The State average participation rate is 51.6 per cent as compared with that of 44.7 per cent for Stone County.

LABOR FORCE
Potential Addition - 1960



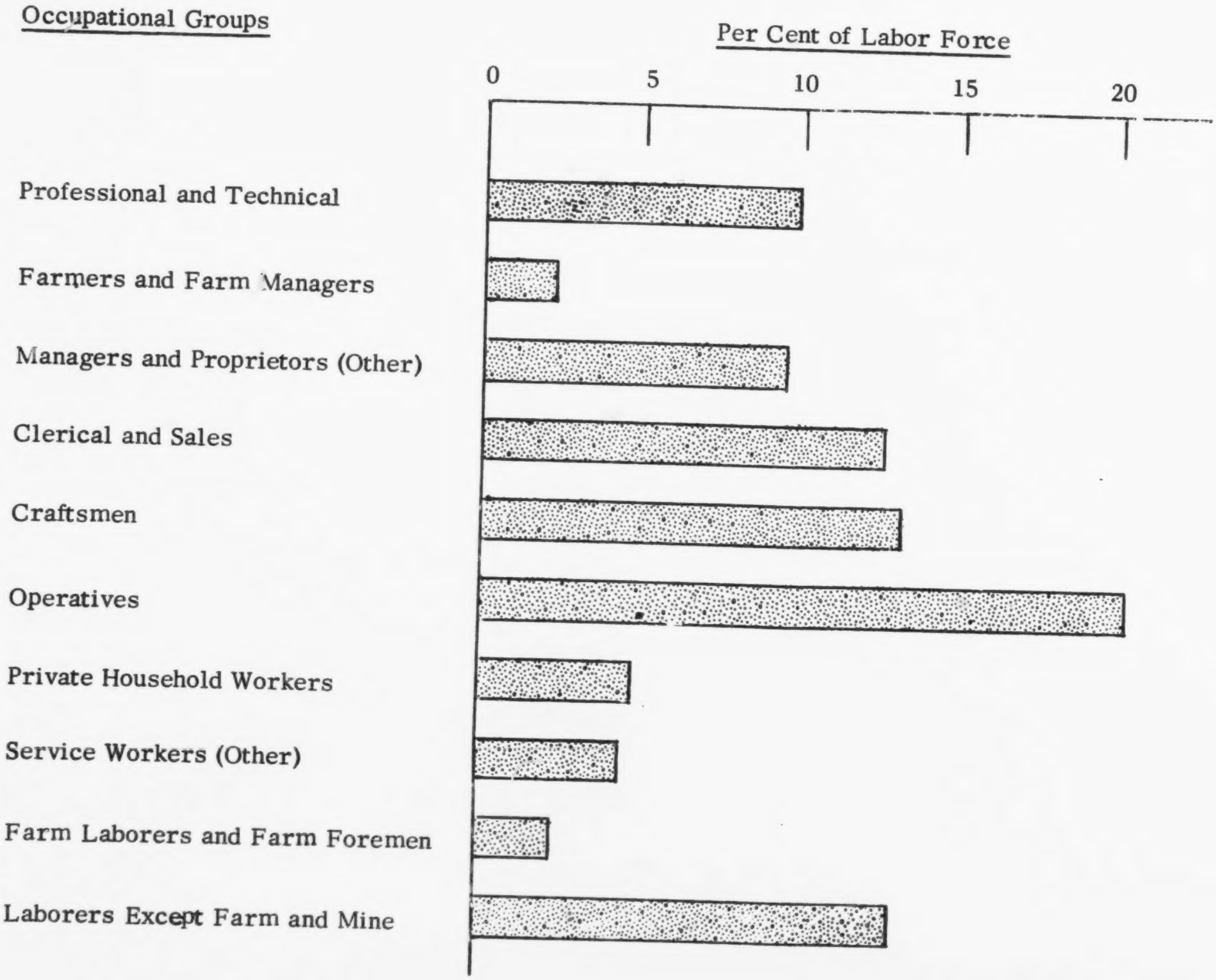
This chart shows the result of the variance of the participation rate in the labor force in Stone County and the State average in 1960, by sex, and age groups. The rate of participation in Stone County in 1960 was 62 per cent for the males and 27.8 per cent for the females, 14 years old and over, as compared with the State average of 71.8 per cent and 32.8 per cent, respectively. If the participation rate in Stone County had been equal to the State average by age groups, there would have been an additional 252 males and 118 females in the labor force; a total potential addition of 370 persons.

OCCUPATIONAL TRENDS
Stone County Labor Force
Per Cent Change 1950 to 1960



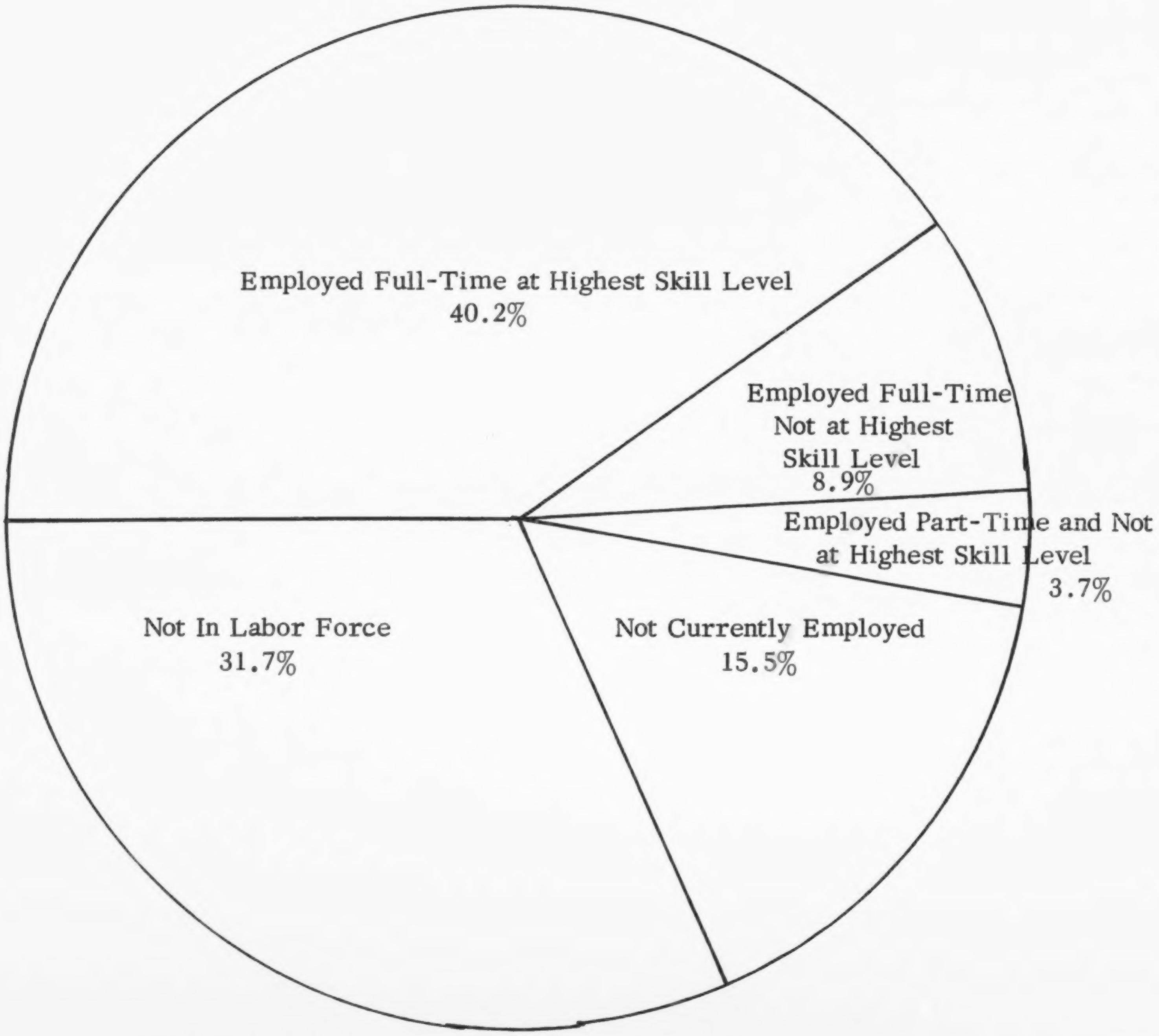
The farmers and farm managers group was the only one to suffer a loss between 1950 and 1960 -- a loss of 359 workers. Other occupational groups showed significant gains. Those showing the greatest numerical gains were: Craftsmen - 123 workers; Clerical and Sales - 112 workers; and Operatives - 105 workers.

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS
Stone County Labor Force, 1960



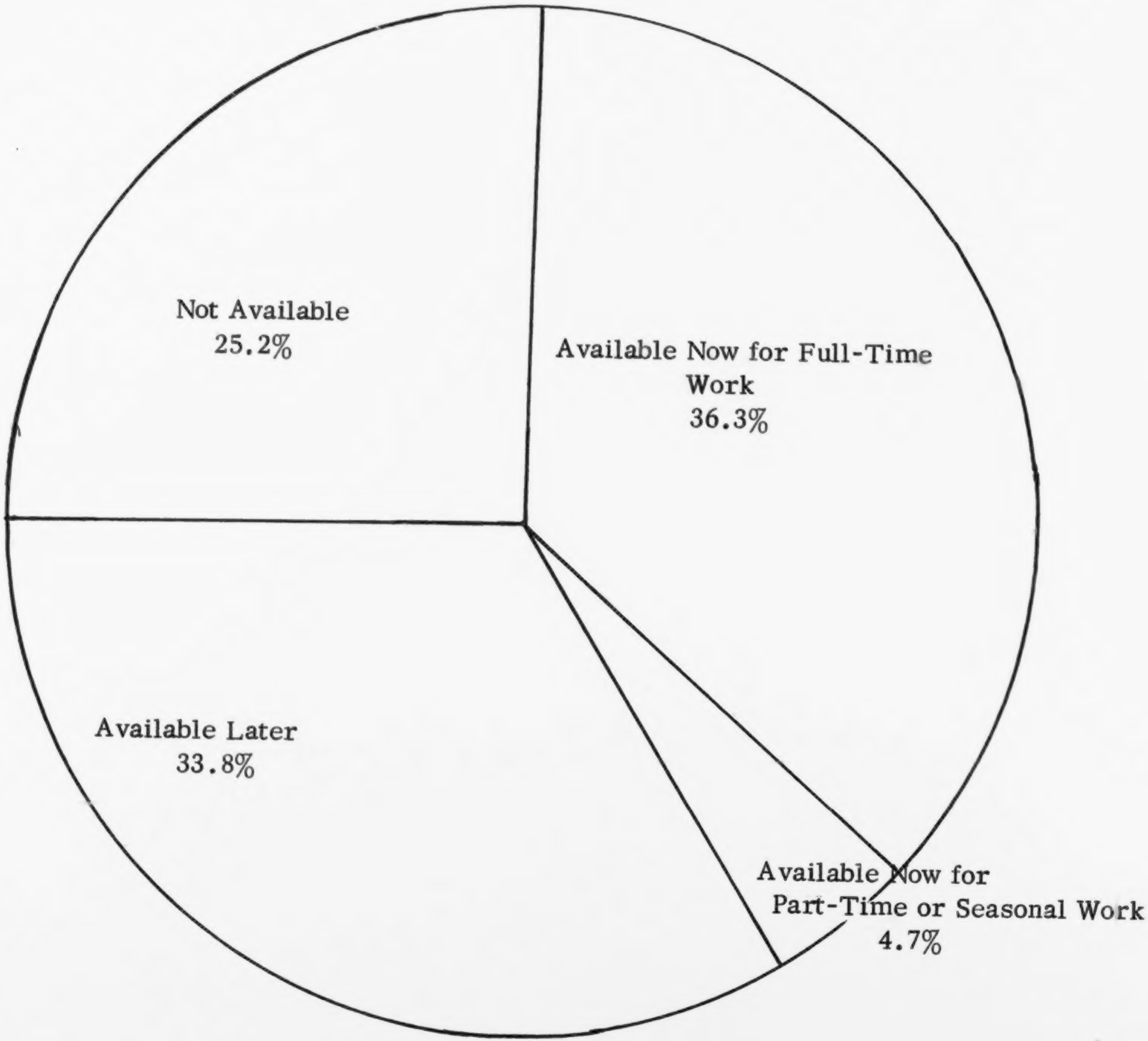
The greatest number of workers, 453, were employed as operatives (semi-skilled) in 1960. Closely following were craftsmen - 280 workers, common laborers - 279, and clerical and sales - 275 workers. It is noted that only 4.2 per cent of the labor force was employed in agriculture.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF APPLICANTS



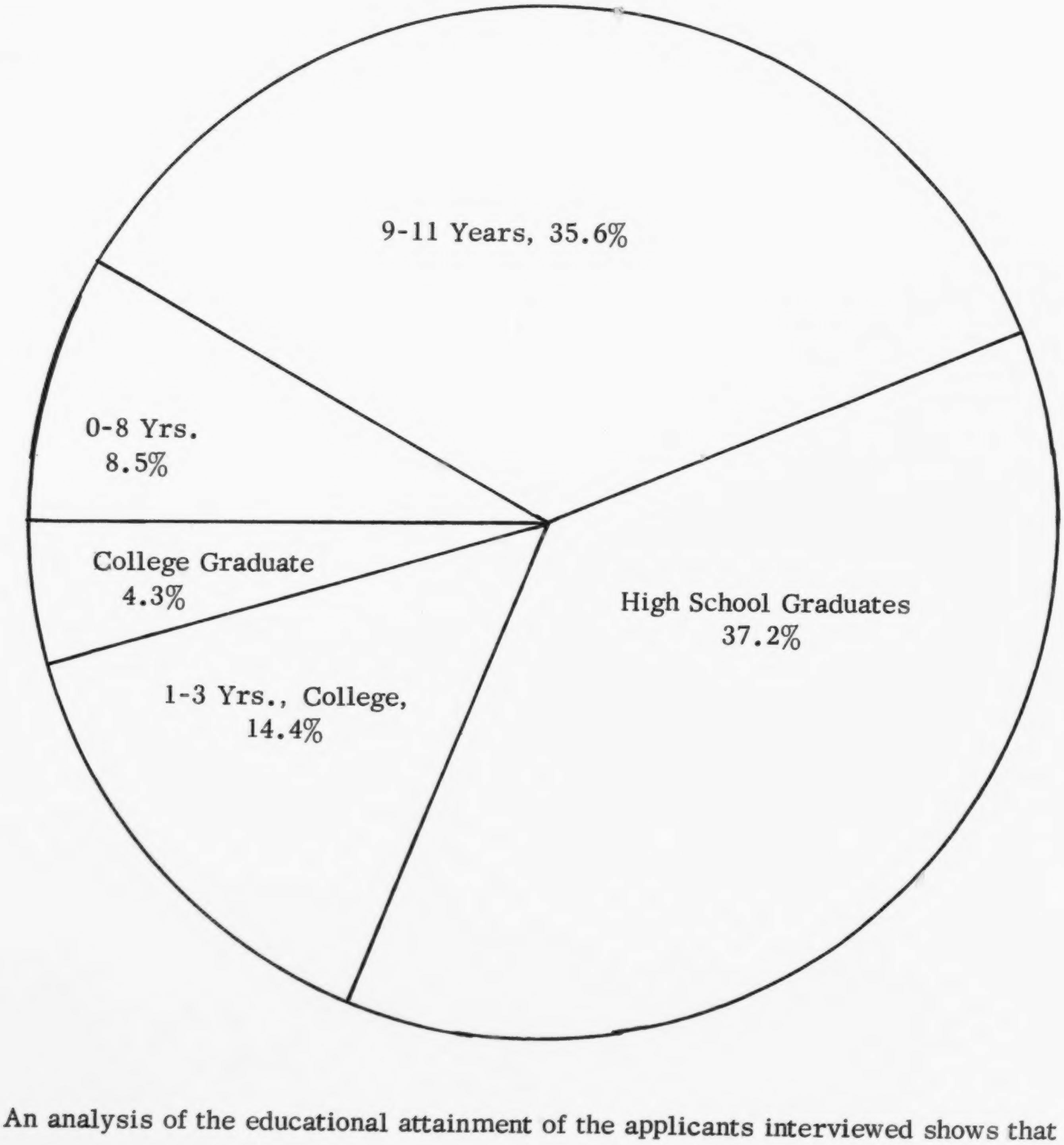
A total of 944 applicants were interviewed. Among these there were 380 who were employed full-time at their highest skill level; 84 who were employed full-time but their highest skill level was not utilized; 35 who were employed part-time and not at their highest skill level; 146 who were not currently employed and actively seeking work; and 299 who were not in the labor force.

AVAILABILITY OF APPLICANTS



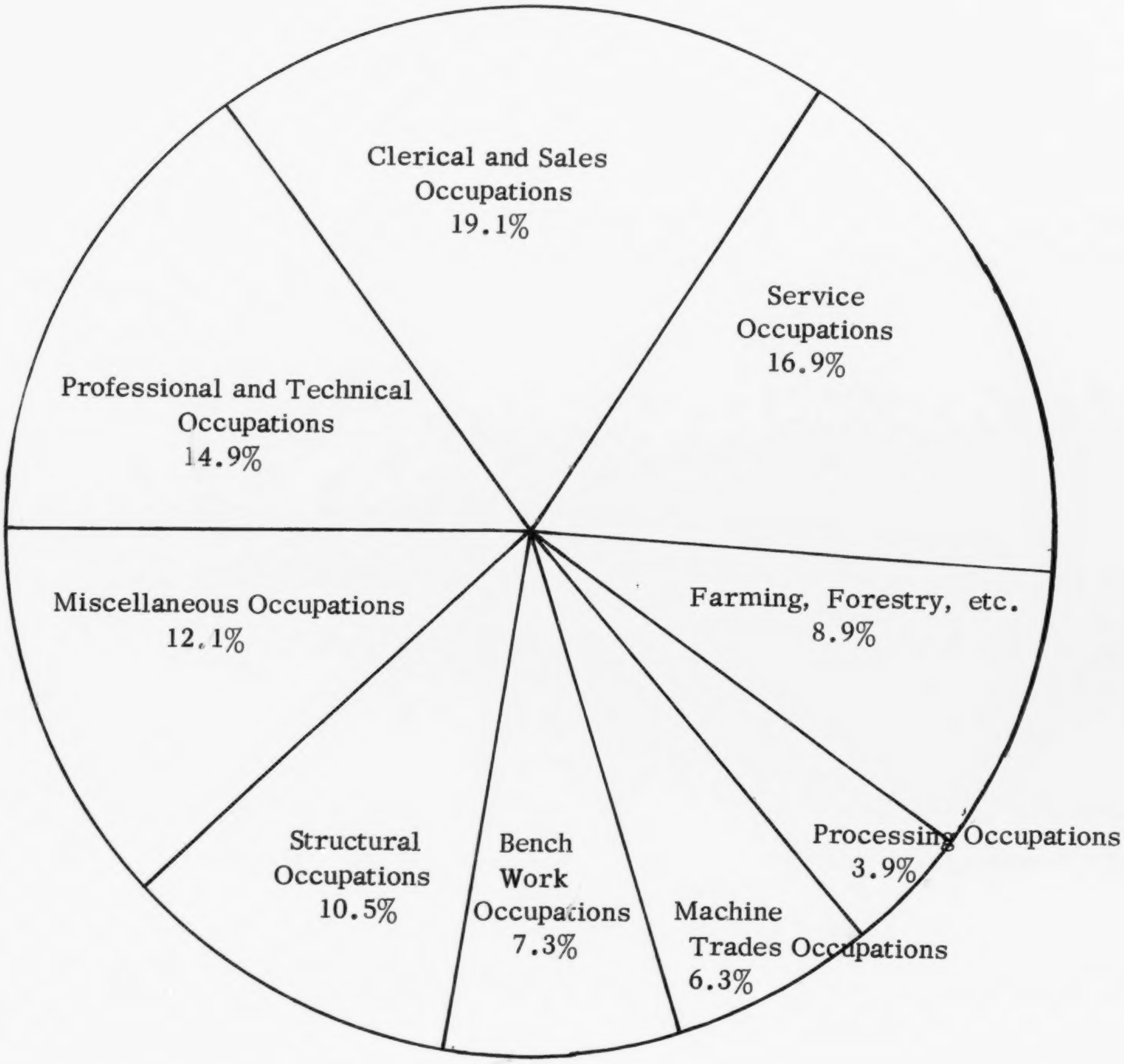
There were 238 applicants who were not available for work, mainly because they were employed full-time at their highest skill level. There were 343 applicants who were currently available for full-time work, and 44 who were available for part-time or seasonal work. Then, there were 319 who would be available later, many of them after graduation from high school. They were tested and counseled to the extent possible.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF APPLICANTS
(Years of School Completed)



An analysis of the educational attainment of the applicants interviewed shows that 80 had completed 8 years of school or less; 336 had from 9 to 11 years of schooling; 351 were high school graduates; 136 had from 1 to 3 years of college training; and 41 were college graduates.

WORK EXPERIENCE OF APPLICANTS



There were 791 applicants out of a total of 944 interviewed, who had work experience in one or more occupations, which is nearly 84 per cent of the applicants. The above chart shows the distribution of their work experience by occupational categories. There were 153 applicants who had no qualifying work experience and they were classified with entry occupational titles and codes.

TESTING PROGRAM DETERMINES POTENTIAL SKILLS OF APPLICANTS

All persons who participated in the Smaller Communities Program study in Stone County were invited to take a series of tests administered by the Mississippi State Employment Service to determine their aptitude for learning new skills. This testing program showed that many Stone County residents have aptitude for industrially significant jobs.

OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE: A SOURCE OF TRAINED WORKERS

Under the provisions of the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962, as amended in 1968, training may be made available to develop skills of persons in an area. An employer planning to establish or expand an industry in Stone County should discuss his personnel needs with the Mississippi State Employment Service Center Office in Gulfport, which provides services to the area. If the Employment Service determines that workers with the required skills are not available, it may be feasible to develop a training course to equip unemployed and underemployed workers in the area with the necessary job skills, or refer such workers to nearby existing training programs. The employer will be asked to furnish information about the number of workers needed with various job skills, and other information relevant to the development of training programs.

Various types of arrangements are possible for providing the training. The program may be institutional or on-the-job training and the determination as to which is preferable in a given situation will depend largely upon the job skills required and the training facilities available. Workers have been trained, under provisions of the MDTA program, in about 50 occupations. These include such diverse occupations as automobile mechanic, practical nurse, photolithographer, communications equipment assembler, welder, stenographer, ship fitter, and woodworking machine operator. The training course may be as short as two weeks, or over a year in duration. Staff of the Employment Service and other agencies with responsibility for various aspects of the MDTA training program will be able to give valuable guidance and assistance in the establishment of a training program that will provide the employer with workers who have the job skills he needs.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND HIGHER EDUCATION
STONE COUNTY AREA

Name of Institution	Public or Private	Vocational Instruction	Maximum Level of Training
High Schools: Locker Stone County	Public	Agriculture	6 Semesters
		Home Economics	6 Semesters
		Industrial Arts	2 Semesters
		Mechanical Drawing	2 Semesters
		Secretarial	6 Semesters
		Office Practices	2 Semesters
		Business Law	1 Semester
		Business Mathematics	1 Semester
Gulf Coast Junior College Perkinston Handsboro Gautier	Public	Drafting and Design Technology	4 Semesters
		Computer Programming Technology	4 Semesters
		Business Data Processing Technology	4 Semesters
		Electrical Technology	4 Semesters
		Electronics Technology	4 Semesters
		Motel-Hotel-Restaurant Operation	4 Semesters
		Mechanical Technology	4 Semesters
		Metallurgical and Welding Technology	4 Semesters
		Radio Broadcasting Technology	4 Semesters
		TV Production	4 Semesters
		X-Ray Technology	4 Semesters
		Architectural Technology	4 Semesters
		Automotive Mechanics	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Bricklaying	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Carpentry	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Machine Shop	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Metal Trades	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Pipefitting	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Plumbing	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Letterpress Printing	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Offset Printing	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Saw Filing	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Industrial Electricity	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Practical Nursing	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Sheetmetal Work	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)
		Welding	2 S. (30 Hrs./Wk)

Name of Institution	Public or Private	Vocational Instruction	Maximum Level of Training
University of Southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg)	Public	Arts and Sciences	B.S. Degree
		Business Administration	M.S. Degree
		Education and Psychology	B.A. Degree
		Fine Arts	M.A. Degree
		Continuing Education	Ph. D. Degree
		Home Economics	Ph. D. Degree
William Carey College (Hattiesburg)	Denominational (Baptist)	Arts and Sciences	B.S. Degree
		Fine Arts	B.A. Degree
		Education and Psychology	B.A. Degree
		Religious Education	B.A. Degree

MEETING YOUR WORK FORCE NEEDS

Employers in Stone County and those interested in locating in the area are invited to submit their work force requirements to the Mississippi State Employment Service Center Office in Gulfport, which will match those requirements against the qualifications of applicants who registered during the operation of the Smaller Communities Program in the county.

A great deal of information in addition to that shown in this brief publication is available on request. For example, for each job title indicated, notification will be given on the number of persons with experience, plus the number of inexperienced persons tested and found to possess the aptitudes necessary for training and successful performance in that occupation. For occupations in which the number of experienced persons is insufficient, vocational training can often be provided under the Manpower Development and Training Act. This Act provides for training either at formal training facilities or on-the-job, using existing plant facilities and reimbursing the employer for direct training costs. The Gulf Coast Junior College campus at Handsboro offers the following MDTA training courses: electrical appliance repairman, electronic mechanic, combination welder, diesel mechanic, metal finishing, mechanical drafting, production machine operator, and medical assistant. Ingels Ship Building Corporation at Pascagoula offers on-the-job training in boilermaking, shipfitting, and welding, through the Gulf Coast Junior College campus at Gautier.

The 944 applicants, who participated in the program, either had work experience or showed aptitude for successful performance in 539 different occupational jobs, and were assigned a total of 2, 810 job titles, which was an average of nearly three jobs per applicant.

STONE COUNTY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

The current Officers and Board of Directors are as follows:

OFFICERS:

Chairman ------------------------	F. S. Batson Farmer Wiggins, Mississippi 39577
Vice Chairman --------------------	Norval Denson Farmer Wiggins, Mississippi 39577
Secretary -------------------------	Otho C. Rowell County Agricultural Agent Wiggins, Mississippi 39577
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:------------ (In Addition to Officers)	A. D. O'Neal Farmer and Merchant McHenry, Mississippi 39561
	John H. O'Neal Farmer Route #1 Wiggins, Mississippi 39577
	Mrs. Gussie Miles Home Demonstration Council Route #1 Wiggins, Mississippi 39577
	Mrs. Mary D. Regan Alderman, Wiggins Wiggins, Mississippi 39577

Objectives of the Association:

1. To raise the social and economic level of all citizens in the county.

2. To organize all resources to attack problems relating to low income.

3. To develop the human, institutional, and natural resources in Stone County.

Responsibilities of the Association:

1. To serve as spokesman for the community in communications with employers considering locating in Stone County.

2. To gather and maintain a file of economic and manpower information to use in attracting new industries to the county.

3. To give all possible assistance to industrial firms locating in the county.

4. To assist in informing and generally preparing residents of the community to receive the establishment of a new industry.

All inquires should be addressed to Mr. F. S. Batson, President, Stone County Resource Development Association, Wiggins, Mississippi 39577, or to Mr. John Altman, Executive Director, Stone County Industrial Development Board, Route 2, Perkinston, Mississippi 39573.

STONE COUNTY BUSINESS FACT SHEET

Population: 7,013 (1960 Census) 7,660 (1966 Estimate)

Income: Median Family Income - $3,058 (1960 Census)

Volume of Sales (1968):
Retail Sales - $11,474,155
Total Sales - $13,870,302

Taxes (1968):
Assessed Valuation - $6,862,244
Tax Levy - 62 Mills
Retail Sales Tax - State 5%
State Income Tax - 3% up to $5,000, 4% over $5,000 after exemptions and deductions

County Bonded Indebtedness (1968): $524,750

Labor Unions (1968): One Industry

Transportation:

Rail: Freight only - The Illinois Central Railroad Company serves Wiggins with one train daily north, and one south. Operational spurs serve Bond, McHenry, Perkinston, and all industries located on the railroad.

The nearest points of rail passenger service are Gulfport, 35 miles south of Wiggins, which is served by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, and Hattiesburg, 40 miles north of Wiggins, which is served by the New Orleans and Northeastern Railroad Company.

Air: The Wiggins-Stone County Airport is located about one mile west of Wiggins, just off State Highway 26. It has a hard surfaced, north-south runway 50' x 3,000' with lighted markers and a rotating beacon light from dusk to dawn. It has a hard surfaced parking area for planes and cars. The airport is fenced. It is unattended but fuel is available; also charter service and flying instruction are available. The airport can accommodate private twin-engine and small jet aircraft.

Truck: Two motor freight common carriers of general commodities are authorized by the Mississippi Public Service Commission for intrastate operations into or through Stone County; Highway Express, Incorporated, and Pascagoula Drayage Company. Others have statewide authority or interstate authority from the U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission.

Bus: Regulated intrastate passenger bus service for Stone County is provided by Continental Southern Lines, Incorporated (Trailways). It operates four round trips daily north and south between Jackson and Gulfport over U. S. Highway 49 serving Wiggins and Perkinston with Wiggins being the only agency station.

Highways: U. S. Highway 49, a four-lane route, bisects the county from north to south going through Bond, Wiggins, Perkinston, and McHenry connecting the Gulf Coast area with the City of Jackson, the State Capitol.

State Highway 26 runs east and west through the northern portion of the county intersecting U. S. Highway 49 at Wiggins, the County Seat. It connects Lucedale and Poplarville.

State Highway 15 runs in a general north-south direction through the eastern portion of the county, but its use is very limited because it is not paved.

State Highway 29 runs northeasterly from Wiggins and intersects U. S. Highway 98 at New Augusta in adjoining Perry County.

Utility Rates (Monthly):

Electricity: $1.50 minimum, for the first 32 KWH, 3.6¢ per KWH for the next 58 KWH, 2.2¢ per KWH for the next 180 KWH, and 1.0¢ per KWH for all over 270 KWH.

Natural Gas: $1.66 minimum, for the first 1,000 Cu. Ft., 12.55¢ per 100 Cu. Ft. for the next 2,000 Cu. Ft., 6.55¢ per 100 Cu. Ft. for the next 3,000 Cu. Ft., and 4.55¢ per 100 Cu. Ft. for all over 6,000 Cu. Ft.

Telephone: Private Line, Residential $3.97; Business $8.26.

Water: $1.75 Minimum, for the first 3,000 Gallons
0.40 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 3,000 Gallons
0.35 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 2,000 Gallons
0.30 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 20,000 Gallons
0.25 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 25,000 Gallons
0.20 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 25,000 Gallons
0.15 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 25,000 Gallons
0.12 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 98,000 Gallons
0.11 per 1,000 Gallons for the next 800,000 Gallons
0.09 per 1,000 Gallons for all over 1,000,000 Gallons

Sewerage: Residential Rate, $2.50; Commercial Rate is negotiated.

Fire Protection: Wiggins, the only incorporated town in the county, has a good volunteer fire department. It is graded as eighth class for fire insurance rating purposes by the Mississippi State Rating Bureau.

Local Government:

County: Board of Supervisors, one elected from each Beat every four years.

Municipal: Mayor-Board of Aldermen type of government. The Mayor and five Aldermen are elected from the town-at-large for four year terms by the qualified voters.

Local Incentive to Industry:

(1) No ad valorem taxes for the first 10 years of establishment.

(2) The State offers two major financing plans for new and expanding industries, the BAWI bond program and the Industrial Revenue Bond plan. Both are administered by the State Agricultural and Industrial (A&I) Board. They enable municipalities and other political subdivisions to issue bonds to purchase sites, construct buildings, etc., and lease them to industry for as long as 99 years, which in effect gives tax exemption for the term of the lease.

VI. POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS SITES

The only incorporated town, all the villages, and communites in Stone County are very much interested in industrial development and will actively assist in securing a site and constructing buildins for any suitable industry which might be interested in locating in any part of the county. Job opportunities are badly needed. The labor force is highly mobile. There has never been a legitimate labor dispute in the county. The State of Mississippi has a Right-to-Work Law.

The main industrial area as well as the business district of Wiggins, the county seat, lies along old U. S. Highway 49 and the Illinois Central Railroad which runs through the middle of the town. Most of the present industries are located in this area; however, there are several desirable industrial sites available now. In addition to the proximity of the railroad, paved access roads are available as well as all city utilities -- electricity, natural gas, water and sewerage service.

The villages of Bond, McHenry and Perkinston are located on U. S. Highway 49 and the Illinois Central Railroad and there are numerous potential industrial sites in each village. However, there are no identified and developed industrial parks in Stone County, and a need for such seems apparent. A brief description of some of the available potential industrial sites in the county is shown as follows in tabular form.

POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS SITES

Site (Town)	Wiggins					Bond		Perkinston
(No.)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	1
Size of Lot (Acres)	37 A.	28 A.	20 A.	10 A.	30 A.	10 A.	5 A.	60 A.
Building on Site	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Floor Area (Sq. Ft.)	60,000	--	--	--	--	8,000	12,000	--
Fire Insurance Class	8	--	8	--	8	--	--	--
Water	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Electricity	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural Gas	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Sewerage	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
R. R. Siding	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Describe Location								